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SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEEKVERENIGING

Geredigeeer vanuit die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, Kaapstad

Deel 25

Januarie 1958

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SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

Die Amptelike Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

Deel 25

Januarie 1958

No. 3

SYFERS EN SEDES

KORT VOORDAT die eerste aardsatelliet om die aarde begin wentel het, het die *Verslag van die kommissie van ondersoek na ongewenste publikasies* sy verskyning gemaak. Ons is van mening dat hierdie verslag vir die geesteslewe in Suid-Afrika van net soveel belang kan wees as die satelliet vir die wetenskap. In die hoop en vertrouwe dat alle lede van ons beroep die verslag deeglik sal bestudeer, maak ons in die beperkte ruimte tot ons beskikking slegs enkele opmerkings oor die aard en omvang van ongewenste publikasies in ons land. Die bevorderingsmaatreëls vir goeie literatuur wat die kommissie voorstel, dra oor die algemeen ons goedkeuring weg. Oor die beheermaatreëls wat voorgestel word, kan ons nie hier uitwei nie. Ons kan slegs sê dat dit groot ooreenkoms vertoon met wat reeds die afgelope dertig jaar in Eire gedoen word met alles wat dit impliseer.

Die kommissie bevind dat die vraagstuk van ongewenste publikasies in die Unie ernstig is. Uit die Afrikaanse boeke wat tussen 1935 en 1954 verskyn het, het hulle 72 ongewenste gevind. Vir ons was dit, laat ons dit maar ruitelik erken, 'n skokkende ontdekking. Ons het altyd gemeen dat daar hoogstens 'n dosyn pornografiese boeke in Afrikaans verskyn het, nie ses dosyn nie. Ons het dus 'n bietjie dieper op die saak ingegaan.

1. Die eerste vraag is wat die kommissie se kriterium vir ongewenstheid was. Hy erken dat sy interpretasie van ongewenstheid veel meer omvat as pornografie (p. 23, par. 2 : 107). Dit kom ons voor dat dit ook veel meer insluit as „onweloweglike, aanstootlike en skadelike leesstof” soos die opdrag inderdaad lui. Op p. 31, par. 3 : 39 lees ons : „... waar hierdie *Wild West* met skietende Afrikaanse cowboys en vegtende meisiemense boonop in Suid-Afrikaanse milieu geplaas is, is die eindproduk se absolute vreemdheid en ongewenstheid 'n uitgemaakte saak.” Hierdie opmerkings het die geheim van die ses dosyn opgeklaar.

2. Hierdie 72 boeke het die kommissie gevind onder 3,746 Afrikaanse boek uit die tydperk 1935-54. Volgens my skatting het die kommissie egter slegs drie-vyfdes van die totale aantal Afrikaanse boeke (offisiële publikasies uitgesluit) wat in genoemde tydperk verskyn het, onder oë gehad. Hulle sê dat die boeke wat hul nie ondersoek het nie, handel oor geskiedenis, lewensbeskrywings, sport, huishoudkunde, teologie, sielkunde en politiek. Alle herdrukke is ook uitgesluit. Die persentasie ongewenstheid in die steekproef is op 1·9 gestel. Uit die totale aantal boeke sal dit egter hoogstens 1·17 persent wees.

3. Uit 200 verhale uit 1947-54 is 357,900 eksemplare van ongewenste boeke gedruk uit 'n totale oplaag van 1,334,200 – dus byna 25 persent. In dié tydperk het egter in die steekproef 1,721 verhale verskyn – nie net 200 nie. Dit kan aanvaar word dat daar ongeveer 465,270 ongewenste eksemplare gedruk is uit 'n totaal van minstens 10,572,600 wat die persentasie ongewenste eksemplare in die steekproef op hoogstens vyf te staan bring.

4. Die steekproef het egter nie net uit 1,721 verhare bestaan nie, maar uit 2,162 boeke uit die jare 1947-54. Van hierdie boeke is seker minstens 11,654,600 eksemplare gedruk wat die ongewenstheid op 4 persent te staan bring.

5. Nou kom ons by die lees van Afrikaanse boeke. Hier is die waardevolle werk wat biblioteke reeds doen, heeltemal oor die hoof gesien. Ons meen dat gemiddeld minstens 1,000 eksemplare van elke redelike Afrikaanse boek tans in die biblioteke beland en dat elke eksemplaar gemiddeld 20 keer gelees kan word voordat dit gedaan is. Die sirkulasie van ongeveer 2,097,000 eksemplare van Afrikaanse boeke uit 1947-54 deur biblioteke kom dan op 40,194,000 te staan. Voeg hierby 9,557,600 wat direk deur die publiek gekoop is en ons kan veilig aanneem dat daardie boeke 50,000,000 keer gelees is teenoor 465,270 ongewenste wat biblioteke nie aanhou nie. Die persentasie ongewenste boeke gelees, beloop dan minder as een.

6. Nou moet nog onthou word dat daar in Suid-Afrika heelwat meer Engelse as Afrikaanse boeke en heelwat meer koerante as boeke gelees word. Ongewenstheid in Engelse boeke wat in die Unie uitgegee word, is volgens die kom-

missie so min dat dit buite rekening gelaat kan word. Ongewenstheid in koerante kom nie in ernstige mate voor nie (p. 70, par. 3:403). Ingevoerde boeke word reeds gekeur. Ons het al hierdie faktore in berekening gebring en bevind dat die persentasie ongewenstheid in ons boek- en koerantleesstof in 1954 ongeveer .08 was.

7. Wat tydskrifte betref, kom dit ons ook voor dat die kommissie sy steekproef wat al die ongewenste insluit, nie meer as drie-vyftes van al die eksemplare wat jaarliks verskyn, bestudeer het nie. Hier kan dus dieselfde opmerkings wat ons in verband met boeke gemaak het, herhaal word.

Om egter 'n duidelike beeld te kry van die omvang en invloed van ongewenste leesstof, moet dit gesien word as onderdeel van die totale vryetydsbesteding van die individu. In ons land met sy volop geleentheid vir buitelandse aktiwiteite, twyfel ons sterk of gemiddeld $\frac{1}{4}$ van ons vrye tyd aan lees bestee word. Dit is egter 'n saak wat diepgaande navorsing vereis. Ons het duisende deeglike gevalle-studies nodig voordat ons oor sulke dinge soos leesgewoontes en die uitwerking daarvan op die sedes van ons volk geldige gevolgtrekkings kan maak.

D.L.E.

AAN MEDEWERKERS EN INTEKENAARS

Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke is die amptelike orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging. Dit word kosteloos uitgestuur aan volle lede, wat hulle jaarlikse intekengeld op of voor 1 Julie betaal het. Adres van die Ere-Redakteur: p/a Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, Die Laan, Kaapstad.

Subskripsiefooi vir inrigtings en nie-lede, 25/- per jaar. *Los nommers*: Verkrybaar by die Ere-Sekretaris, S.A. B.V., p/a Universiteitsbiblioteek, Johannesburg.

Artikels oor vraagstukke met betrekking tot die biblioteekwese en bibliografie word aangevra.

Aantekeninge en nuusberigte uit die biblioteekwêreld oor bedrywighede van allerlei aard, nuwe en verboude biblioteekgeboue, ens., sal verwelkom word.

Op koerantuitknipsels moet die betrokke passasies duidelik aangewys word, en die datum en herkoms vermeld word.

Enige bydraes wat reeds elders vir publikasie inge-

stuur is moet vergesel word van die nodige verwysings en van 'n nota van vergunning tot oorname.

Die Vereniging aanvaar geen verantwoordelikheid vir menings wat deur medewerkers geuit word nie.

Kopie moet die Redakteur minstens twee maande voor die verskyningsdatum bereik, nl. 1 Mei vir die Julie-nummer, 1 Augustus vir die Oktober-nummer, 1 November vir die Januarie-nummer, en 1 Februarie vir die April-nummer.

Medewerkers word vriendelik versoek om te sorg dat manuskripte getik word, met dubbelspasiëring, redelike randruimte en by voorkeur op bladsye van kwartoformaat (10 x 8 duim). Manuskripte behoort voor insending sorgvuldig nagesien te word, daar veranderings nadat die druk geset is hoë onkoste meebring.

Boeke en biblioteekpublikasies, soos bulletins, katalogi en verslae, wat vir aankondiging of resensie ingestuur word, word uiteindelik tot die Biblioteek van die Vereniging, Posbus 397, Pretoria, toegevoeg.

THE WORK OF THE C. S. I. R. A PROGRESS REPORT¹

by

S. MEIRING NAUDÉ

President, S. A. Council for Scientific & Industrial Research

THIS IS, I believe, the first time that the S.A. Library Association has asked a scientist to open its annual conference and I am personally very sensible of the honour you have paid me. I also welcome your invitation in that it is evidence of the growing co-operation between the scientists and technologists and their colleagues, the librarians. If proof were needed of the indispensability of libraries to scientific research and technical advancement, then the experiences of World War II and the subsequent years of rapid scientific and industrial expansion have amply provided that proof. Indeed, the atomic age as we now call it, being an age of ever-increasing scientific specialisation, must perforce depend more and more on the written record of the investigations of thousands of research workers, all of whom are contributing their share to the expansion of knowledge over the whole world. The techniques necessary to store and to retrieve all this hard-won information have in their turn become more complex, and librarianship is, I know, making every effort to adjust its methods to the latest needs of science and technology.

Since its birth in 1930 your Association has made an invaluable contribution to the development and improvement of all kinds of library services in this country, thus assisting greatly the cultural development of all the peoples of South Africa. It has not contented itself merely with encouraging the expansion of services for recreational reading in the towns, but it has given a lead in the provision of services for the rural areas and it has helped to improve the services for the South African student both within the walls of our universities and outside them. The very theme of your conference

in Pretoria this year ² shows that you have also the welfare of the Bantu reader at heart.

All these services cost, and will continue to cost, a great deal of money, and unless South Africa is prosperous, such services simply cannot be provided. In this modern age the continued prosperity of any country depends very largely on its continued healthy scientific and industrial development, and we in Pretoria are greatly concerned with ensuring a sound scientific and technical foundation for South African industries and planning the conservation of our natural resources. You will, I believe, be interested to hear about some of the efforts of my own Council in this direction.

Building research

Immediately after World War II the Government realized that they were faced with a very serious housing problem. During the war years thousands of Europeans and natives had moved into the big towns of the Union to take advantage of the many lucrative jobs which were offering. After the war it was estimated that there was a shortage of 350,000 houses for natives alone and that about 35,000 houses should be built a year for 10 years. The cost of a house for a native family amounted to about £700 at Atteridgeville near Pretoria. At this price it would have cost about £250 million to house the homeless natives alone. It was clear that the South African economy would not be able to stand this strain if other essential

¹ Opening Address delivered at the Annual Conference of the S. A. Library Association, Pretoria, Monday 30 September 1957.

² "Library Services for the non-Europeans."

improvements of railways, roads, industries, etc., had to be undertaken at the same time.

In these circumstances the then Prime Minister, General Smuts, approached the C. S. I. R. to help the Government to find a solution to this problem. The task was undertaken by the National Building Research Institute of the C. S. I. R. Committees on which architects, medical doctors, engineers, scientists, quantity surveyors, etc. served voluntarily, were appointed. For almost two years these Committees hammered out the minimum standards of accommodation, of protection against the elements, ventilation, strength against storms, etc. After these standards had finally been approved by the Department of Health an analysis of the cost of building a native house was made. After investigating about seven types of construction, it was finally decided that the orthodox house built of bricks and mortar was still the best and lent itself to mass production. In 1951 the Government passed an act (No. 27 of 1951) enabling natives to build their own houses in native areas. Skilled natives were employed to put up the corners of the houses, the doors and window-frames and unskilled natives laid the bricks in between. In this way the cost of a standard native house was reduced to under £200 each. In fact at Vlakfontein near Silverton a record low price of £169 has been attained. Even at £200 each compared with say £400 just after the war a potential saving of £7 million on 35,000 built per annum could be registered. The method of building has been employed at Sasolburg, Meadowlands, Springs and Witbank and has at last made it possible for South Africa to clean up the slums outside the larger towns.

Recently the problem of economic housing for Europeans has also been tackled by the N. B. R. I. and it has been found possible to build a house with a floor area of 900 square feet for £900 without facilities and £1,140 after all the additional requirements of a modern home had been added.

It has also been found possible to save up to £23,000 on a primary school which usually cost £57,000 to build. This saving has not been made to the detriment of the functional efficiency of the school concerned.

Nutritional research

Besides housing, nutrition is probably just as important, if we want to have a healthy and

contented industrial population. It was found that the natives who came to the towns usually adopted the simplest way of feeding. Many of them lived for days on end on white bread and cool drinks. In this way they did not get the vitamins and proteins essential for their health and very soon the incidence of tuberculosis, kwashiorkor and other nutritional diseases started to rise. The then Minister of Health tried to overcome the deficiencies in the diet by reinforcing brown bread with various ingredients like milk powder, soya bean meal, and about £1 million was spent annually to this end. A special laboratory, the National Nutrition Research Institute was finally instituted in 1954 under the C. S. I. R. to study this problem more scientifically. It was immediately realized that South Africa has a vast reserve of protein in her fish meal which was being exported or used as cattle feed. The problem of producing a white, odourless and tasteless fish meal was tackled in co-operation with the F. I. R. I. in Cape Town and success was attained in 1956. Experiments have already proved that brown bread can be enriched with fish meal at a cost about half of the previous cost to the Government and with a marked improvement in the biological value. The problem of adding this white fish meal to white mealie meal is still being studied. This is the ideal of the Department of Nutrition because mealie meal is the staple food of millions of our native population.

The N. N. R. I. has also produced mageu which is very rich in vitamins in the form of a powder which can simply be mixed with water and can be used by industries to feed their native employees.

Research on kaffir beer, so valuable in the native diet, has also shown striking results in producing a potable drink which is always acceptable to the native and does not go sour, thus causing a tremendous loss and a great nuisance to the native beer halls of the municipalities and the mines.

In addition to improving the living conditions and the food of our native population, the C. S. I. R. has also been very active since 1946 through its National Institute of Personnel Research in developing methods of aptitude testing for our native population. This is very important if our industries want to make the best use of the labour force which is becoming more and more limited as our industries expand and Africa becomes more and more industria-

lized. These methods have proved to be so successful that many of our gold mining companies and certain other industries have started their own personnel selection departments. The tests developed by our N. I. P. R. have also been applied in countries like India, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana and have been accepted everywhere.

Watnavorsing

Die W. N. N. R. het vanaf sy ontstaan besef dat Suid-Afrika nie veel verder kan ontwikkel en veel meer mense kan dra nie, as ons nie beter gebruik maak van ons watervoorrade nie. 'n Watnavorsingseenheid is gevolglik in die N. C. N. L. gestig en hulle het hulle toegespits op opnames van ons riviere en die behandeling van rioolwater, totdat hulle vandag prosesse het om water tot 99.99 persent van sy oorspronklike suiwerheid te herstel.

Daar is ook besef dat die Vrystaatse goudmyne geweldige probleme het om ontslae te raak van die miljoene gellings water wat daagliks uit die myne gepomp word. Die water bevat ongeveer 4 per sent sout en kan nie in die strome en riviere ingelaat word nie, want diere en plantegroei langs die strome sou daarvan dood gaan. 'n Nuutontdekte elektrodialiseproses wat in 1952 in Holland ontdek is, is verder ondersoek en vervolmaak in Suid-Afrika sodat dit onlangs deur sekere myngroepe aangekondig is dat hulle van plan is om 'n 2½ miljoen gelling per dag eenheid te Welkom of te rig. Volgens die voorlopige proewe wat in die N. C. N. L. en te Welkom oor die afgelope drie jaar uitgevoer is, word verwag dat hierdie water van 4 na 1 persent sout gesuiwer sal kan word teen ongeveer 2/- per duisend gelling. Hierdie gesuiwerde water sal vir nywerheidprosesse gebruik kan word en sal dit onnodig maak om 'n dergelike hoeveelheid water vanaf die Vaalrivier na Welkom te pomp.

Navorsing in mynwese

Ook op ander gebiede het die goudmynindustrie ernstige probleme na die W. N. N. R. gebring. So is die N. N. I. M. I. genader om ondersoek in te stel na die oorsake en moontlike oplossing vir rotsstortings in myne. Dit is gevind dat hoe dieper die myne afaan, hoe ernstiger word die gevaar van rotsstortings, wat nie alleen die lewens van myners in

gevaar stel nie, maar ook groot materiële verliese veroorsaak deurdat die mynskagte vir dae na 'n rotsstorting ontoeganklik word. Vir hierdie probleem is reeds 'n voorlopige oplossing gevind wat belofte om myne by groot dieptes veel meer winsgewend te maak en op die manier is die lewensduur van verskeie myne op die Witwatersrand aansienlik verleng.

Vir die Kamer van Mynwese is verder 'n klimaatskamer ontwerp en in werking gestel deur die N. N. I. M. I. waarin enige temperatuur, vogtigheidsgraad of mynventilasie, wat in die myne voorkom, nageboots kan word. Die doel van die kamer is om eksperimenteel vas te stel welke uithouvermoë die menslike liggaam het by die toestande wat in die myne heers, en welke voeding aan die mens verskaf moet word om die arbeid by die omstandighede te kan verrig. Dit is heeltemal veilig om te sê dat Suid-Afrika hier 'n apparaat het wat beter is as enige wat elders in die wêreld bestaan.

Telekommunikasie

Maar ook op elektriese gebied het die W. N. N. R. reeds getoon dat die breinkrag van die jong Suid-Afrikaners nie hoof terug te staan vir dié van hulle kollegas elders in die wêreld nie. In die N. T. N. L. is enige jare gelede 'n ontvangtoestel ontwerp waar die frekwensie gekontroleer word deur 'n enkele kristal. Die stel is so gewild en so goedkoop dat die Britse Regering besluit het om ongeveer 900 van die stelle aan te skaf vir 'n groot staatsdepartement, en voorkeur daaraan te gee bo kompeterende Britse en Amerikaanse stelle.

In dieselfde laboratorium is onlangs die tellurometer ontwikkel waarmee afstande van 500 tree tot 50 myl net so akkuraat gemeet kan word as met die beste teodoliet. Die metings daarmee gaan egter minstens tien keer vinniger as met die teodoliet en kan by mistige of reënagtige weer, of selfs in die donker geskied, terwyl metings met die teodoliet slegs in helder daglig moontlik is. Die tellurometer maak gebruik van 10 cm radargolwe en meet die deurgangstyd van die strale van 'n Meester-na 'n Afgeleë-stasie en terug. Daar die snelheid van die radargolwe bekend is, kan die afstand tussen die twee stasies bereken word. Die instrument is nie alleen in Suid-Afrika uitgevind nie, maar word ook in Kaapstad gebou deur 'n spesiaal daarvoor gestigte maatskappy waarin die W. N. N. R. 'n aandeel het. Die maatskappy

het reeds 280 bestellings van oor die hele aarde maar veral van die V. S. A. ontvang. Dit word reeds in die Koue Noorde van Kanada gebruik om daardie onmeetlike ruimtes te kartografeer en in die V. S. A. vir die opmeting van paaie. Volgens die direkteur van padontwikkeling in die V. S. A. doen een man met 'n tellurometer net soveel in verband met padontwikkeling in een uur as wat tien man voorheen in drie weke met die teodoliet uitgevoer het.

Bou-navorsing

Tot die ontnugtering van verskeie van ons stadsingenieurs, is nie so lank gelede vasgestel dat die rioolpype van die meeste stede in die Unie binne tien jaar heeltemal weggevrete word bokant die watervlak in die betonpype. Navorsing van die N. B. N. I., in samewerking met die N. C. N. L., het getoon dat mikrobies die swawelwaterstofgas wat in die riole afgegee word, omsit in swawelsuur. Deur die konstruksie van die riole so te verander dat minder gas ontsnap by plekke waar die riole by mekaar aansluit, kon die probleem ten dele opgelos word. Die grootste bydrae tot die oplossing van die probleem het egter gekom deur die beton self te vervaardig uit dolomietklip wat alkalis is en self saam met die sement met die gevormde swawelsuur reageer, terwyl vroeër die swawelsuur net met die sement verbind het. Op die wyse kan die leeftyd van die rioolpype minstens verviervoudig word vergeleke met vroeër, sonder om die koste van die pype te verhoog. Die riole sal nou minstens 40 jaar hou en dit is ongeveer die maksimum tydperk voordat groter rioolpype in elk geval gelê moet word weens die natuurlike groei van ons stede. Dit word konserwatief bereken dat op hierdie wyse minstens £700,000 per jaar in Suid-Afrika gespaar kan word deur van die kennis gebruik te maak.

Onlangs is op Graaff-Reinet vasgestel dat 'n nuwe gebou wat volgens die bekende betonstaal-raamwerk-prinsiep gebou was, so lelik gekraak het dat die deure van die kamers op die tweede verdieping selfs nie behoorlik kon oopgaan nie. 'n Nuwe verskynsel is deur die N. B. N. I. ontdek, nl. dat beton wat gemaak word van sement en 'n klip wat montmorilloniet bevat, aansienlik krimp wanneer dit droog word. Betonbalke wat versterk is met staal aan hulle onderkant en nie aan die bokant nie, sal dus na onder deurbuig omdat die beton bo inkrimp

maar onder deur die beton daarvan weerhou word. Tans word betonklip eers na die W. N. N. R. gestuur vir analise om vas te stel of die klip nie te veel krimp wanneer dit droog word nie, sodat 'n dergelike verskynsel as by Graaff-Reinet in die toekoms vermy kan word.

Library facilities

I could continue in this strain by quoting more successes in the very brief research history of the C. S. I. R. which after all will only be 12 years old on October 4. All these successes have only been made possible because the C. S. I. R. very early in its history realized that research could only be successful if, amongst other facilities, we were provided with a really first rate scientific library service. Naturally our first duty was to build up a library for the use of our own staff, a library that is really a post-graduate university library. During the eleven years of the Library's existence it has grown with that tremendous acceleration familiar to all librarians, and to house it in more comfortable quarters we last year completed our new building. You will see many changes since your last visit during the Conference held in Pretoria in 1949.

From the first, however, we felt that our duties did not end with the provision of a library for our own staff. The needs of individual workers far from any large collection of books and, in particular, the needs of expanding industry in this country, occupied my Council's thoughts from the beginning. We have therefore joined in your inter-library loan schemes and have made our holdings available to libraries and to individual scientists all over this country and also in the Federation, acting indeed as the central scientific library for Southern Africa.

Through our overseas offices in London, Washington and Cologne we have been able to feed the library here with those reports from overseas research institutions which are not so readily available through the normal channels and these reports also, provided that they do not fall under any category of restriction, are available to the whole of South Africa on loan. Our overseas offices have also provided a service by which single photographic copies of scientific articles in journals not held in the Union can be obtained from the libraries of Europe and the United States and sent to the

C. S. I. R. Library for transmission to the waiting worker in the Union. My Council has also recognized the need for spreading abroad knowledge of the research work being done here, and of providing other information about South Africa to make it easier for other countries to have *facts* about us at their disposal instead of only opinions, and with this aim in mind it has produced for example the annual *Register of Current Scientific Research at South African Universities*.

We have tried in all our plans to supplement and assist the work already being done by the

older established libraries, and we were very happy when the University of Cape Town, Rhodes University, the Public Library at Port Elizabeth and the University of Natal co-operated with us in the brief courses we gave to introduce scientists and industrialists in their areas to the basic ideas of scientific and technical information.

We look forward to further co-operation in the future in raising standards of scientific and technical information services in this country and in filling gaps in the bibliographical coverage of South African science and technology.

MAJOR W. G. GRIFFITHS

At a meeting of the Southern Transvaal Branch of the S. A. Library Association on 6 November 1957, a presentation was made to Major Griffiths on the occasion of his retirement from the Librarianship of Benoni Library.

Mr. R. F. Kennedy, City Librarian of Johannesburg, in making this presentation, made the following citation:

"Major William George Griffiths, F.S.A.L.A., was the first and has hitherto been the only Librarian of Benoni. He was appointed in August 1923, when the new building (erected with the aid of a Carnegie grant) was opened. He has therefore been Librarian for the whole 34 years of its existence.

"He attended the Conference in Bloemfontein in 1928. This Conference was the beginning of the library movement, as such, in South Africa. For about a year he acted as secretary to the Committee which prepared for the 1930 Conference, at which the S.A.L.A. was born. Major Griffiths must therefore be considered one of the founders of our Association.

"From nothing, or very little, he built up a library service in Benoni; in 1933 he persuaded his Town Council to make the Library free. He is therefore among the pioneers of the free library movement in South Africa. He established a service for non-Europeans in the Davey Social Centre at the Davey-

ton location, and is one of the pioneers of non-European libraries in South Africa. In 1948 he opened a Children's Library as part of his service.

"The Benoni Library, although not one of the biggest in the Union, has some rare Africana treasures; the most important perhaps being the MS minutes of the Reform Committee. Major Griffiths has been untiring in his efforts to make the Benoni Library a true cultural centre: he organized recitals of recorded music and art and other exhibitions.

"Major Griffiths, as is necessary in a good librarian, took an active part in the social and educational life of his town. As a member, and for 20 years as Chairman, of the Benoni Branch of the B.E.S.L. he is known as a man of infinite kindness, always ready to help a lame dog over a stile. His kindness made him willing; his knowledge and tenacity made him able. He has been a highly respected member of the East Rand School Board for 21 years, and was Chairman for 5 years.

"Major Griffiths, your colleagues of Southern Transvaal Libraries hold you in such high esteem that they are taking the unusual step of making you a farewell presentation. In doing so, we all wish you not only long life and happiness, but also the opportunity of continuing your work for the betterment of mankind, for we are sure that you will not be happy unless you are serving others."

BELEID VAN DIE DEPARTEMENT VAN NATURELLESAKE MET BETREKKING TOT LEKTUURVOORSIENING AAN DIE BANTOE

deur

C. W. PRINSLOO

Hoofinligtingsbeampste, Departement van Naturellesake

DIT IS NIE VIR MY MOONTLIK OM DIE beleid van die Departement van Naturellesake met betrekking tot lektuurvoorsiening aan die Bantoe so as 'n enkele deel van die totale ontwikkelingsbenadering aan u te stel nie. Om enigsins 'n duidelike perspektief te bekom oor beleid in hierdie verband is dit noodsaaklik om hierdie faset van ontwikkeling te skets in die milieu van sy „omgewing”. Om dit enigsins doeltreffend te doen is dit nodig om aanvanklik aan te toon wat die beleid is ten opsigte van die ontwikkeling van leesvaardigheid, andersom gestel, die ontwikkeling van die vermoë om lektuur te benut. Daarna meen ons dat 'n saaklike oorsig van die reaksie van privaat ondernemings betreffende voorsiening in die behoefte gewens is. Ten slotte sal ons dan 'n oorsig gee van die praktiese stappe dusver deur die Departement geneem om lektuur aan die Bantoe te voorsien en ook aandui wat die riglyne vir die toekoms sal wees.

ONTWIKKELING VAN DIE VERMOË OM LEKTUUR TE BENUT

Hoewel dit byna na 'n leeftyd klink as 'n mens terugdink aan die geweldige agitatie teen die instelling van Bantoe-onderwys, is dit nog skaars drie jaar dat hierdie omvattende volksontwikkende organisasie van stapel gestuur is. Ons vestig aandag op die kortheid van die periode vanweë die breë aanvaarding van die ontwikkelingsbenadering in Bantoe-onderwys ten spyte van die vyandige en dikwels venynige atmosfeer wat teen die aanvaarding daarvan aangestook is. En ons stel dadelik die vraag,

waarom dan het die stof so skielik hier gaan lê? Die antwoord is baie duidelik dat daar by die Bantoe 'n diepe tevredenheid moet wees met Bantoe-onderwys. Onmiddelik moet ons die volgende vraag stel, naamlik waarin is daardie tevredenheid geleë? En hier op is die antwoord as volg.

Voordat Bantoe-onderwys oorgeneem het, het die onderwys van die Bantoe-jeug in die hande gestaan van 'n 70 - tal Blankgerigte Sending - organisasies, waarvan 67 leiding uit die buiteland ontvang het en 'n 99-8 persent subsidie van die Staat ontvang het. Baie van die sendinginrigtings het onderwys bloot as 'n vangstok gebruik vir sy besondere soort Godsdiens, en was minder geïnteresseerd in die onderwys en in die toekoms van die Bantoe. Daardie onderwys het aan die Bantoe geen sitting gegee op die ouerkomitees nie, dit was nie ingeskakel gewees op die totaal-ontwikkeling van die Bantoe nie, dit het net die doel van die sending gedien.

Wat gebeur nou vandag? Waar die Bantoe vroeër op die buitelyn gesit het, het ons vandag 4,600 ouerkomitees waarop 30,000 Bantoe-ouers sitting het, wat geaktiveer is in Bantoe-ontwikkeling. Hulle sien nou wat is regering. Nou hoor hulle vir die eerste maal dat 'n skoolbank geld kos, dat boeke gekoop moet word en dat 'n klaskamer nie vanself kom nie. Vir hulle is regering nie meer 'n fiktiewe belofte wat vir hulle voorgehou word nie. Hulle aanvaar nou vir die eerste maal selfregering, reg op die grondvloer. Bo-oor hierdie ouerkomitees is daar nog 335 skoolrade, elk maal 9 lede. Die Bantoe-Onderwyswet het dus benewens die oordrag van beheer 'n byna 40,000 ouers

in kontak gebring met regering in die praktyk. So word hulle stap vir stap, realisties opgevoed.

Ons verwys u na die veel omstrede leerplanne. Blanke onderwys kan heelwat pragtige elemente uit die Bantoe-Onderwysleerplan kom uithaal, bv. die vak Omgewingsleer wat reeds in die Bantoeskole gedoseer word sal waarskynlik nou volgende jaar ook in Blanke skole ingevoer word. 'n Beter getuigskrif kon Bantoe-Onderwys seker nie gekry het nie as die van Dr. Webb, wat die nuwe onderwys eers vuriglik bekamp het, maar later noodgedwonge moes erken dat die leerplanne in gehalte gelyk is aan enige in die wêreld.

Waar in 1952 na 'n eeu van sendingonderwys skraps 700,000 kinders uit die moontlike 2½ miljoen op skool was, gee Bantoe-Onderwys 1,265,000 Bantoe-kindere 'n behoorlike opvoeding en volgens beraming sal binne 15 tot 20 jaar leesvaardigheid na die hele Bantoe-bevolking uitgebrei wees. Volgens die U. N. E. S. C. O. - verslag het geletterdheid onder die Bantoe van 21.2 persent in 1946 verhoog tot 30 persent tans in vergelyking met Indië wat nog nie eers 9 persent geletterd is nie. (*Progress of literacy in various countries* - Unesco, 1953, pp. 113 en 146).

Die groot lering wat 'n mens kan trek uit die vrede en tevredenheid met Bantoe-onderwys is soos die grondlêer daarvan, dr. W. W. M. Eisele, by geleentheid in die kern gevat het as volg: „Ons (die Departement van Naturellesake) het Bantoe-onderwys oorgeneem van die sendelinge om dit te gee aan die Bantoe”. Hier is een van die beste en mees kern-rakende ontwikkelingsbenaderings ten opsigte van die Bantoe waarvan ons kennis dra, naamlik aktivering vanaf die grondvloer en daarvandaan stap vir stap na die volgende vloere in diens van die eie gemeenskap want, let wel, dit is nie onverbonde onderwys nie, dit is Bantoe-onderwys, en daardeur opleiding tot diens van die eie gemeenskap.

Ons beklemtoon hierdie ontwikkelingsbenadering met opset want ook by lektuurvoorsiening gaan die beleid van ons Departement nie wees om bloot te gee nie maar om die Bantoe in staat te stel om self te verwerf. As ek nie vir u na aanleiding van so 'n groot sektor van die ontwikkelingsaktiwiteite van ons Departement vir u aandui hoe ons sake wat reeds geloods is benader nie sal u nie ons siening met betrekking tot lektuur-voorsiening as onderdeel van 'n geheelbenadering kan sien nie.

VOORSIENING IN DIE BEHOEFTE: PRODUKSIE VAN LEKTUUR

In die samevatting van die verslag van die Sosio-Ekonomiese Kommissie is in hoofstuk 44 die stand van sake tot en met 1953 aangedui betreffende die produksie van lektuur, met ander woorde op 'n stadium net voor Bantoe-onderwys sy groot ontwikkelingspoging geloods het. Tot en met 1953 was daar 30 koerante en 8 tydskrifte wat spesiaal op die Bantoe-leserskring gerig was. Van hulle is 12 beheer deur die Bantu Press-groep, en 8 deur sendingkerke. Nie een van daardie koerante het 'n sterk uitgebreide leserskring gehad nie, maar die twee vernaamste tydskrifte, hoewel hulle nie in 'n Bantoetaal verskyn het nie, het begin reik na 'n leserskring van 100,000.

'n Baie belangrike feit is dat die beheer oor hierdie tydskrifte en koerante nie in die Bantoe-samelewing geleë was nie, maar in die hande van Blanke groepe wat in die meeste gevalle nie direk gemoeid was met Bantoe-ontwikkeling nie maar met die propagering van idees wat nie altyd gestrook het met die beste belange van Blank en Bantoe in Suid-Afrika nie. Die Kommissie het dan ook tereg bevind: „In die geheel gesien, is die Bantoeopers ingestel op integrasie en assimilasie. Afsonderlike ontwikkeling word nêrens bepleit nie. Die Bantoe-gebiede as sodanig bereik selde of ooit die voorblad. Hoofartikels word oorheers deur die stedelike probleem en die Bantoe se politieke aspirasies.

„In wese bestaan daar nog nie 'n Bantoeopers nie. Die koerante en tydskrifte wat onder die Bantoe sirkuleer, word beheer deur Blankes. Etlike van hulle het egter Bantoe redakteurs, 'n groeipunt wat kan lei tot die ontstaan van 'n werklike Bantoeopers wat 'n positiewe faktor in die ontwikkeling van die Bantoe kan word” (paragrafe 33 en 34 van hoofstuk 44).

In die afgelope drie jaar het daar op hierdie terrein 'n geweldige verandering ingetree. Die snel stygende leesvaardigheid van die Bantoe het kerklike organisasies en privaat ondernemings se belangstelling kragtig gewek en met verrassende resultaat. So bv. het Dagbreekpers sy baba in die veld gestoot, naamlik *Bona* en wel in die moedertaal-medium. Hierdie tydskrif verskyn gelyktydig in Xhosa, Zoeloe en Sotho. Hy is skaars twee jaar oud en sy opslaag is al reeds bykans 100,000. Ons verwys ook na die reuse poging van die N.G. Kerk. Sy oproep

om fondse vir *Die Ligstraal* is feitlik in 'n ommesientjie bekroon met meer as die gevraagde bedrag van £20,000. Nou vra dieselfde Kerk sy lede en vriende om by te dra tot 'n lektuurfonds van £3 miljoen en die reaksie is dusver baie bemoedigend.

Op die boekefront het die Sosio-Ekonomiese Kommissie gevind dat daar 15 sendingdrukkerse is – 4 in die Hoë Kommissaris gebiede, 3 in Suidwes-Afrika, 6 in die nie-Bantoegebiede van die Unie en net 2 in die Bantoegebiede, benewens 13 ander drukperse in Blanke besit wat boeke produseer gerig op die Bantoe-leser. Daar was dus tot en met 1953 geen tekort aan produksiemasjienerie wat die nodige lektuur kon produseer, mits die aanvraag daar was nie. Sedertdien het al die vernaamste drukperse in die land hulle belangstelling in die Bantoe-mark aansienlik verskerp en met verrassende resultaat. Ons noem een tekenende voorbeeld. Aan die begin van 1956 het die Afrikaanse Pers Boekhandel van Johannesburg 'n prysvraag uitgeskryf wat Bantoe-skrywers uitgenooi het om novelles, dramas en gedigte in die 7 Bantoe-tale van die Unie aan te bied. Die reaksie was 'n verrassing want nie minder as 241 manuskripte is ontvang nie. Baie daarvan was nie van hoë gehalte nie, maar die reaksie het getoon dat die suurdeeg in die meel begin werk. 'n Hele reeks van hierdie manuskripte, afgesien van die wat bekroon is, word van tyd tot tyd gepubliseer.

Vir die van u wat meer besonderhede verlang verwys ons na die Mei-uitgawe van *Bantoe* 1956.

As voorbeeld van die belangstelling van ons Suid-Afrikaanse boekhandelaars en uitgewers, verwys ek u na 'n opsomming van 'n lys wat ons kort gelede ontvang het van een van hierdie uitgewers. In die moedertaal het hierdie uitgewery die volgende vars werke aangebied:

Zoeloe	7
Xhosa	14
Suid-Sotho	18
Noord-Sotho	23
Tswana	6
Venda	3
Tsonga	3
Altesaam	74

Dit is een van die grotes en as mens so deur jou titellêr blaai is daar bykans 1,000 nuwe werke wat so deur uitgewers aangebied word. Dit vergelyk verbasend goed met ongeveer

1,000 boeke wat in meer as 'n eeu in die Bantoe tale van Suid-Afrika gepubliseer is tot en met 1954 volgens 'n opname gemaak deur Prof. D. Ziervogel van die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika. (Sien *Bantoe*, Augustus 1954).

Daar is dus nie 'n tekort aan gewillige hande om te voorsien in die snel stygende vraag nie. Vir almal wat dit wel meen met die ontwikkeling van die Bantoe sal dit egter 'n groot vreugde wees as die eerste werklike Bantoe-uitgewery sy masjiene aan die werk sit in 'n Bantoe-gebied. Ons is seker dat hulle dieselfde welslae sal behaal as wat hulle stamgenote reeds behaal het bv. op die gebied van die handel en die vervoerwese.

LEKTUURVOORSIENING AAN DIE BANTOE: PRAKTIESE STAPPE DUSVER GEDOEN

'n Oorsig van bestaande biblioteekdienste vir Bantoe is érens in hierdie blad deur mev. Peters, behandel. Uit 'n geheel-oogpunt beskou was al die biblioteekdienste vir Bantoe hoe lofwaardig ookal, eintlik ongekoördineerde pogings, met ander woorde hierdie dienste het nie verband gehou met ander Bantoe-ontwikkelingsdienste nie en het op enkele uitsonderings na nie ingesakel by 'n ontwikkelingsprogram nie. Die belangrikste sponsors van hierdie dienste was die Onderwysdepartemente van die Provinsies, enkele Munisipaliteite en Carnegie-skenkings.

Die Departement van Naturellesake het vanselfsprekend veral sedert die loodsing van Bantoe-onderwys navorsing gedoen oor die aard en omvang van biblioteekdienste vir die Bantoe met duidelike inagneming van ander noodsaaklike ontwikkelingsbehoefte. As dit geldelik en uit 'n administratiewe oogpunt moontlik was om in elke distrik klein ontwikkelingsbibliotekies aan die gang te sit sou niemand dit meer graag wou doen as juis ons Departement nie. Dog die ontwikkelingsbeleid neergelê deur Sy Edele die Minister van Naturellesake, dr. H. F. Verwoerd, is naamlik dat die ontwikkelingsgebou vanaf die fundamente uitgebou moet word en uiteindelik by die dak voltooi moet word, en nie soos so dikwels in die verlede gebeur het gou 'n paar sinkplate op die een uithoek van 'n dak, nog lank selfs voor die eerste laag stene rondom gelê is.

Daarom dan is die eerste groot poging geloods waar dit die meeste vrug sal dra en wel by die Bantoe-kindere die Bantoe skool en daardeur ook by 'n baie vitale deel van die Bantoe oergemeenskap, naamlik die bykans 25,000 onderwyers en 40,000 skool- en skoolraadslede en sekretarisse.

Eerstens dan moes gesorg word dat die Bantoe-onderwyser, vanweë die feit dat die moedertaalmedium die geleiding is waarlangs kennis en opvoeding 'n kind die suiwerse bereik, minstens self lektuur in die moedertaal moet ontvang. Dit was nie al behoefte wat die onderwyser gehad het nie – die meeste van hulle het nooit beseft dat daar twee amptelike landstale in die Unie van Suid-Afrika sedert Unie is nie. Hulle het vir die eerste maal ontdek dat Afrikaans ook 'n amptelike landstaal is. Ook die Bantoe-kind het dieselfde behoefte gehad as die onderwyser en daarom het die Departement van Naturellesake die bes-beskikbare tydskrifte in die moedertaal en in die amptelike landstale op 'n gesubsidieerde basis beskikbaar gestel aan al die Bantoe-skole. So bv. sal u die Bantoe-onderwyser vandag vind selfs op die mees afgeleë uithoeke van ons Bantoegebiede met ons beste Biblioteek-in-een, naamlik *Lantern*, waar hy die mees opbouende leesstof in Engels en Afrikaansmedium op 'n aanskoulike en verheffende wyse aangebied kry. Tans word £25,000 per jaar vir hierdie doel aangewend.

Die heel grootste poging word egter op die kind gekonsentreer. Die Departement verskaf aan elke Bantoe-kind een boekie in sy moedertaal, een in Engels en een in Afrikaans. Dink net daaraan dat toe die skole begin het in Januarie 1957 is ongeveer 2½ miljoen boeke in elk van die drie media so oorhandig, of bykans 8 miljoen boeke. Bantoe-onderwys het aan hierdie diens vanjaar £155,000 bestee.

Maar dis nie al nie. In die Oktober-uitgawe van die *Bantoe-Onderwysblad* is aangekondig hoe die Departement mits fondse beskikbaar is, die aankoop van biblioteekboeke vir primêre skole sal subsidieer. 'n Uitgebreide gids is ook vir die doel opgestel. Ons verwys u vir besonderhede na die *Bantoe-Onderwysblad*, Oktober 1957, bls. 387.

Soos reeds aangedui is daar soveel basiese ontwikkelingsbehoefte en is ingeskakelde optrede so noodsaaklik dat die Departement gedurig as't ware 'n stroom deur die draad van ontwikkeling moet stuur wat op daardie stadium deur die kragdraad gedra kan word, anders doof die ligte uit. Ons moet die kunsmis gooi waar die oes die grootste is. Daarom was die poging, tot dusver 'n skoolpoging, maar op die breë lewensterrein is ons oorgehaal om oor te gaan tot aksie sodra die kragdrade reggespan is en hier is ons kernpunt ons Bantoe-Owerhede met die stigting waarvan snelle vordering gemaak word. Daar is tans byna 300 owerhede reeds gestig uit 'n moontlike totaal van 400 en dis hier waar ons met die Bantoe se hand aan die ploeg Bantoe-biblioteekdienste sal loods.

Alle Bantoe-ontwikkeling sal ten spoedigste by hierdie sentrales van Bantoe-owerhede aangeskakel word. Ook die Bantoe-onderwys. Die tyd om Bantoebiblioteekdienste te loods op hierdie grondslag is net om die draai want soos reeds aangedui is bykans 75 persent van die owerhede reeds gestig en dit sal nie veel meer as nog 12 maande neem om die res te stig nie.

Hiermee dan vertrou ek dat uitvoering gegee is aan u versoek en dat u langs hierdie weg 'n insig gegee is in die ontwikkelingsbenadering van die Departement van Naturellesake ook met betrekking tot lektuurvoorsiening as 'n onderdeel van die geheelontwikkeling.

THE READING TASTES OF THE NON-EUROPEAN

SOME PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

by

MRS. M. PETERS

Transvaal Non-European Library Service

The selection of reading matter for non-European libraries

The future progress of non-European library services is assured if we can achieve our aim to provide a completely free library service, with professional status and adequate pay for full time non-European library assistants, and if we can secure the closer co-operation of European librarians in the task of guiding the work done in non-European libraries.

The selection of reading matter for non-European libraries, and the assistance which we must be prepared to give to readers requires our special attention, however, or we shall still be wasting much of our valuable time and a great deal of money. There are notable exceptions of course, but from what I have seen during 10 years of active interest in non-European library work, there are still too many books at present on the shelves of many libraries, which need discarding, books that are dirty, torn and worn out, books with very close faded print on poor quality paper, books with pages missing, books that lack present day interest – these books require to be weeded out to make room for more attractive looking reading matter.

All this materially affects the reading done by non-Europeans, and it is thus often very difficult to assess with accuracy what the non-European enjoys reading when the library at his disposal is full of books of this kind. Many of the libraries I have seen have a bookstock made up largely of gifts and while it is a fact that librarians do frequently receive many valuable gifts of books, it is also true that a balanced bookstock cannot be built up largely on gifts from the public.

The fear of losing too many books seriously

affects the amount of reading done in many non-European libraries. Some libraries have tried to solve this problem by charging deposits, but this system has its own evil results and creates a seeming lack of interest in the library. Many librarians feel that books are not lost by borrowers. They treasure these books too much to return them. I believe that provided every reasonable care is taken of the books by the librarians and borrowers, we must be prepared to face certain losses of books, particularly at this stage of the development of our library service for non-Europeans.

Another factor to be considered is whether the non-European librarian is yet fitted to choose the books for his library. Mrs. T. Visser (Vereeniging Public Library) has found that her experienced librarian at Sharpeville Library can now be trusted to choose wisely. It is evident that non-Europeans should take an active part in the selection of books but the task of providing a balanced bookstock on limited funds is a problem that requires to be handled by a trained librarian.

The reading habits of the non-European

To-day, when knowledge is so easily available to the most ordinary people, it seems true enough to believe that if you give a man some leisure, and put him where there are good books, he will develop an interest in reading, but it is also important to remember that most men will only develop their reading habit if someone, and only a librarian can really do this work properly, makes the first selection of the reading material. This is particularly true in the case of the non-European, because the reading habit has not yet been widely established.

In the past progress has been slow. Men and women who leave home at six in the morning and return at seven in the evening can still afford the time to sit and read, whether they have the education or not. The city workers cannot make regular use of most location libraries unless such libraries are open late at night and on Saturdays and Sundays. At present there are few libraries available to city workers in central positions where they can be used by non-Europeans during lunch hours.

Librarians and teachers remain convinced, however, that it is through our work with children that we must hope to establish the habit of reading. Even here we have learnt through sad experience that the non-European child, when he leaves school, is frequently still putting away his reading habit with other childish occupations. An educated Coloured once informed me that the Coloured child often faces the difficulty of a lack of understanding on the part of the parents who have not had much schooling themselves, and as a result children are constantly disturbed by parents coming and going, talking to them and ordering them to do the chores about the house, so that the child barely manages his homework and has little time to read. When he leaves school he plunges into thrillers, wild west and light love stories as a relief from textbooks and the dreary routine of adult life. In his opinion, the African parents set a greater store on the child's reading habit. In view of experiences like these, many librarians have come to feel that until there are improvements in education and an advance in economic and social conditions, the non-European cannot be expected to find pleasure in reading, and that our libraries can only hope to provide opportunities for the few.

In a study of this kind it is necessary for us to dwell for a moment on these hard facts. There is, however, a much more encouraging side to this picture, and it is the growing interest in reading that I wish to stress. In this connection, I should like first to relate some of the experiences which we have had in the non-European Library Service, Transvaal, with our African, Indian and Coloured readers; then to give an account of a personal survey of the reading done by many non-Europeans who use other libraries; and finally, to give such information as I have collected from a number of other sources, which will, I hope, encourage

you to feel that if good books become readily available, they will be increasingly read despite all handicaps and obstacles in the path of progress.

READING INTERESTS

(a) *English fiction*

For some time the circulation figures of the Transvaal non-European Library Service have been reflecting 50 per cent interest in study books and a 50 per cent interest in what we all call "popular" books. Recently we have been purchasing more books for recreational reading. The circulation has doubled itself and the interest in the "popular" section is now nearly 70 per cent. We have also been able to carry out, with a degree of success, a few simple experiments in guiding some of our readers in their reading. There is, I know, no particular proof in the experience of one small library, but if our readers are turning to recreational reading for their leisure hours then this is probably happening elsewhere these days. Although our library is small, it is an active one. Some 700 people visit the library each month to choose books (about 400 adults and 300 children.)

In recent months the librarians have been making lists of books returned to the library, and from a study of these lists it has been possible to make tentative groupings of the reading interests of our borrowers. Children appear to enjoy fairy tales, particularly Hans Anderson, the little Golden books and all the better known stories for children such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Arabian Nights*, *King Arthur*, *Peter Pan*, *Robin Hood* and always the stories printed in the large print, particularly Blackie's "Easy to Read" series. Popular also are works of writers like Jane Austen, "B.B.", R. M. Ballantyne, the Brontës, John Buchan, Conrad, Defoe, Dickens, Conan Doyle, Dumas, George Eliot, Goldsmith, Hardy, G. A. Henty, J. Hilton, W. E. Johns, E. Kastner, Kipling, Jack London, Melville, Scott, R. L. Stevenson, Mrs. Stowe, Mark Twain, Jules Verne and Stanley Weyman.

There are two points of interest to note here. In our non-European library adults as well as children read most of these books. Abridged editions have seemed popular, but many more copies in abridged editions are needed for our

former country service. I have noticed that our unabridged copies do go out regularly; e.g., one copy of *The Three Musketeers* by Dumas in the abridged edition had been out 14 times and an unabridged copy had exactly the same number of issues. This was also true of two copies of H. G. Wells' *The Invisible Man* and of *Treasure Island*.

Adults show the usual interest in love stories, historical romances, in adventure and in detective fiction. A few regulars ask for wild west. The educated reader asks for best sellers, for books that have been filmed and those reviewed in papers and periodicals.

All children, and a great many adults, ask for the Enid Blyton stories.

(b) *Afrikaans books*

There is the usual familiar interest in children's books and particularly in "Trompie" and "Saartjie", in love stories and detective stories, in the classics in translation, and in animal and adventure stories by the well-known authors.

(c) *Popular non-fiction*

Here we find a special interest in books of the kind written by M. Neurath and P. Hood and in the *Wonder Books* published by Ward, Lock. There are books on acting, on boxing, camping, cookery, dressmaking, knitting, nursing, photography, scouting, singing and sport. There is the usual interest of the children in illustrated books on aeroplanes, jets, rockets and space travel. There is a particular interest in books on animals. We have discovered that there is not as yet a wide interest in travel books, except those with an African background. People do, however, ask for travel books on England, United States, on India, the Middle East, Pakistan and Ghana, and lately several non-Europeans have asked to be supplied with reading lists of travel books on other countries. We are experimenting with "The Young Traveller" series and our librarians report that these books are now in constant demand. Biography is placed with our serious non-fiction works for the purpose of this survey. Non-Europeans show a great interest in biography.

(d) *Serious non-fiction*

The non-European has a particular interest in books which he thinks will improve his edu-

cation and his chances in life, books which will assist him to write good letters and to speak well. He also looks for books which will help him to follow current events and which will lead him to a greater understanding of Western culture, apart from his interest in his own people.

I do not propose to deal fully with this section, except to mention the great demand to supply prescribed works for examinations from Junior Certificate to Matriculation and the degree courses. Self education is common among non-Europeans and they now look to libraries for help in supplying them with books which so many of them cannot afford to buy. Of the more serious books returned to us there are always the great works of literature, books on psychology and philosophy, on education and economics, on social welfare, health, history, biography and religion, and the problems of race and colour. There is one point I should like to mention here: many non-Europeans I have met need some guidance, perhaps in the way of prepared lists in choosing books as an introduction to a subject. Non-Europeans are inclined to select comprehensive and highly technical works as a first choice, often from the title. As librarians, we have a duty to these readers to find easier paths to such difficult goals. We should have prepared lists of reading material on different subjects, be it history, education or literature, or travel or some topic like music, journalism, scouting, soccer or a hobby of some kind. Such lists would be a help to the borrower in his reading of a subject or topic, and may be very useful to librarians in the task of selecting books for the library.

Many of the readers choosing study books have admitted that they read only a few chapters to draw special material, but several of them said that certain works aroused particular interest and they intended to return to these books at a later stage for further reading.

There is a very great interest in books on the Negro people and we have often found it difficult to cope with this demand. Recently, however, our library was enriched by a fine gift of books about America and the Negro from the United States Information Service.

(e) *Books with an African and Asian background*

We have been experimenting successfully with the works of the writers named in the

periodical the *Junior Bookshelf*, November, 1956, in the section on works with an African and Asian background. The book "Four to Fourteen" compiled by Kathleen Lines has also a useful list of this kind. We also make use of the State Library's annual copyright list.

Quite a number of non-Europeans have expressed a reluctance to read books written by Europeans expressly for Africans. They appear to hold the belief that these books must be inferior in some way; they prefer to choose a general work on agriculture or nursing to one written particularly for the Bantu. Rightly or wrongly, they wish to study a subject from the same standpoint as the European.

From information supplied to me, both verbally and in writing, it is also evident that many non-Whites are reluctant to read books written about the Bantu by Europeans, often considering these books to be out of character, because they treat the Bantu either as a nonentity, or else they over-sentimentalize him. Many non-Europeans feel that the White does not yet speak the language of the Bantu, and therefore he cannot fully understand him. They consider that if convincing characters and scenes are to be portrayed, then Black and White writers need to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of each other's culture. The Bantu feels that it is time he occupied a more worthy place in settings with a South African background.

(f) *Bantu literature*

I can here only touch the fringe of interest shown in this subject. We all know the need for more books, and every effort must be made to gain the greater interest of the Department of Native Affairs and other cultural organizations in assisting Bantu authors to get their works published. I should like to refer you to an address given by Professor Ziervogel entitled "Rich literary achievement in the Bantu languages" (Fact paper 38 published by the State Information Office). In this address made on his appointment to the Chair of Bantu languages of the University of South Africa, Professor Ziervogel points to the interest of Bantu authors in the clash between tribal society and tribal customs, and the trek to the cities with the impact of Western civilization on the young men and women leaving home for the towns. Among the works mentioned are Jordan (Xhosa) *The wrath of the ancestors*, Nye-

mbezi's (Zulu) *My child! My child!*, Phalane (N. Sotho) *Motantang*, Moloto (Tswana) *The Lost One*, Mofolo (S. Sotho) *Chaka*, Machobane (S. Sotho) *The dark caves* (about cannibals) and Jolobe (Xhosa) *Uzagula*, (witchcraft), Ramaila's short stories in N. Sotho and Jolobe's (Xhosa) book of essays, *Amavo*. The writings of Mr. G. H. Franz are popular and there is Make's drama, a satire *The complaint of the donkey and the horse*, and Khaketla's (S. Sotho) drama on the theme of peace and Ndebele's (Nguni) drama on a folktale, and the poetical works of the great Zulu Vilakazi. We should consider how to produce an annual list of vernacular publications apart from the State Library's annual copyright list, which is not complete and does not of course give the language of the work listed.* Such a list could be made available to all non-European libraries.

(g) *Paper-backs*

We adopted an idea from Johannesburg Public Library and started a cheaper paper-backs collection. There is a very great interest in this collection.

The African, the Indian and the Coloured readers

I found it so difficult to separate out the different tastes shown in reading by the social groups, African, Indian and Coloured, that I abandoned the effort to do so. From my small experience with the Coloured I agree with the generally accepted opinion that he is an educated and critical reader who chooses very much the same sort of book as the European and likes the same best sellers, thrillers, wild wests and romances and, if his interest is aroused in a particular subject or topic, he becomes a voracious reader. Our best reader is a Coloured youth who has withdrawn over 100 works, mainly Afrikaans and English fiction, during the past year. The Indians who use the library are eager readers, who show wide general interests. Many of them withdraw 50 - 60 books a year. The Africans who are regular borrowers often take out up to 70 books a year. My experience is largely with the African, but most of what I have said applies to all three racial groups who use our service.

* The booklists printed in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the S.A. Library* give particulars of language and content (Ed.).

About 50 non-Europeans, most of whom use libraries other than our own, have written to me about the sort of books they read or wish to read. Comparing the information they supplied, with our own experience in the library, I found that they had very similar tastes in reading. I was very much astonished at their knowledge of books, and at the reading that many of them had done, despite the fact that some of them had had no opportunity to use a library service. They were all able to list for me books in which they were interested. As usual I found that many of these correspondents were students, but again I found that they were also actively interested in books on acting, photography and sport and in lighter fiction. Here, for example, is a male labourer from Vereeniging. Let us admit that he is no ordinary labourer! He uses the Sharpeville Library and buys books he cannot find in the library. He mentions textbooks and popular books in psychology. He reads Paul de Kruif with great interest. He likes John Drinkwater's *Outline of English literature*. He mentions books on the Bantu by Brookes, Paver, Phillips, Schapera and others, and requests advice on works about the Negro and the Coloured. He has a great interest in poetry, particularly in the Romantics of the 19th Century. He has read all Shakespeare and quotes some 15 works from English literature which he says he has read recently. He lists works on South Africa and mentions biographies he has read of Abraham Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, Chaka, Aggrey of Africa and others. He reads newspapers and magazines regularly and is a member of a sports club and a dramatic club and likes books on acting and sport. For lighter reading he enjoys adventure, love and detective stories. He lists practically every one of those fiction works mentioned earlier in this paper.

The specialist and the advanced reader

A study of this kind on the reading tastes of the non-European would not be complete without mention of the specialist reader, and those readers who must be placed in a particular class of advanced reading and who cannot be regarded as students studying for examinations.

One such reader who was interested enough to discuss his reading tastes with me was Mr. Mphahlele, now literary editor of the *Drum*, who recently gained his M.A. with

distinction at the University of South Africa. He began life as a herd boy and his mother took in washing to educate him. Here is a man with the wide interest in life that a successful journalist requires, a reader deeply interested in Christianity, in the English translations of French, German and Russian writers, in serious works of opera and instrumental music, in modern poetry and prose, in the problems of society, and of race and colour. He is a member of a syndicate of artists interested in music, drama, painting and literature, a reader of the *Statesman*, *The Listener*, the *London Times* and the *Manchester Guardian*; in papers from America, India and West Africa, with a wide knowledge and interest in international, as well as South African affairs. He buys his books because he finds the University of the Witwatersrand too out of the way to use regularly. Another such reader I have met has taught matriculation Afrikaans and shows a great interest in English language and literature. He is learning German, Nederlands and French so as to be able to read literary works in the original language. He is a reader with wide general interests, who also professes an interest in books on sport, in thrillers and adventure stories, a man who has gathered his own private library of some 600 volumes because he feels that he cannot find what he is looking for in the library services at present available to him.

There are as yet few people with a reading taste like theirs and they all seem unaware of the existence of any inter-library loan services. Books could probably be borrowed for them if they knew how to set about applying for them. A very real need exists here to publicize and develop our inter-library loan services and to build up a central collection of specialized material to serve such readers.

From information I have gathered, there is to-day a very solid core of Coloured readers who, once they have achieved a particular interest, will pursue their reading with a steady and growing interest in every conceivable book, pamphlet and periodical on the subject or topic. Those readers frequently complain that a general library service fails to supply them with the material they require. African readers too have told me that they feel as students that they have set themselves a standard, and that they retain their interest in the subjects they studied for their degrees and require books not normally found in general libraries for the public.

Reader guidance for Non-Europeans

We come now to the service which we must give to our non-European borrowers.

I am convinced that for the present we require to give greater service to individual readers. We all know from experience that non-Europeans have had little opportunity to use libraries, and that they are bewildered by rows of books on shelves. The majority of non-Europeans using our libraries would be grateful for personal assistance in choosing books for reading, through prepared lists, and through personal attention, even if it is a simple suggestion or some personal guidance. We tried a suggestion shelf with almost instant success. Even if a borrower does not choose a book from this collection, he spends some time looking through these books and gets acquainted with new books and often asks about the contents of a book which he thinks will interest him. One of the difficulties we have all experienced with the non-European is to persuade him to broaden his interest in reading, to help those who only come for study books to try the "popular" books, and those who read only Enid Blyton and "Trompie" and "Saartjie" and light love stories and detective fiction, to try something different.

I should like now to tell you of a few experiences we have had in the library in our simple efforts at reader guidance. A teacher came one afternoon for a textbook on education for his degree studies. We asked him what subjects he was teaching and discovered that he was particularly interested in nature study and especially birds. He had never noticed the Longman's Field handbooks. We also found out that he was a great soccer enthusiast and he was delighted with a new book we had acquired on soccer. He admitted that though he had used our library regularly, he had never thought to borrow books except for his studies. Another teacher who only read science and philosophy has since broadened his interest to include Pearl Buck, Rachel Carson, E. M. Forster, Alan Paton, G. B. Shaw and Laurens v. d. Post! On another occasion a young Indian girl, disappointed because there were no Enid Blyton books on the shelves, and no light love stories, accepted a suggestion to try an abridged copy of *Pride and prejudice*. She returned for *Emma* and followed that with *Wuthering Heights*.

One morning I found a crowd of Indian

school children gathered round a collection of Longmans abridged editions of *Jane Eyre*, *Tale of two cities*, *Pride and prejudice*, *The White Company*, *David Copperfield*, *Treasure Island*, *The black tulip*, *King Solomon's Mines*, *The 39 steps*, *Round the world in eighty days*, *Journey to the centre of the Earth* and *Emil and the detectives*. It was evident from their conversation that these boys had all read and enjoyed these books. Looking at the issue cards after they had gone away, I noticed that most of these books had been out 12-14 times and that *David Copperfield* and *Treasure Island* had been out more than 23 times each. (The books were very dirty in appearance and I had been considering discarding them. On this occasion I replaced them on the shelf to last until we had money to buy new copies.)

These children were looking round asking for Enid Blyton "Trompie" and "Saartjie", but when I drew off the shelf some new books of Marie Neurath and books on jets and space ships they crowded round and began to quarrel over who should have these books first!

Non-Europeans show a great interest in Shakespeare, but on one occasion a young woman teacher returned us a copy of *Macbeth*, and when we asked her how she had enjoyed it, she rather shamefacedly admitted that she could not follow the play or understand the language. I undertook to read it aloud with her after she had read a simple account of the play in John O. London's series *Shakespeare in short*. The play came wonderfully alive for us both as we read it together, taking turns. She took her copy home to read it again in the evening as she told us later "when the children sleep and supper is over, my husband and I we sit at the kitchen table to read by the light of a hurricane lamp. We rest every half an hour and close our eyes for ten minutes". This experience made me think that as librarians we might find means to encourage and help the average non-European reader to become better acquainted with the works of literature. Plays, poetry and prose read aloud and discussed among a group of people will stimulate an interest in the literary works which are to-day everyman's heritage. The organization of discussion groups on different subjects and even on topics of interest to communities and family living should become a regular feature of location library service. We all know that the non-European enjoys the classics and wishes

to acquaint himself with the greatest works – that he knows how to set about this task is another matter. A young Indian shop assistant with a Std. VII certificate once asked me: "Do you have a shelf called 'English Classics'? I know about Shakespeare." He was decidedly overcome and lost in our 800 class and needed guidance in selecting books.

Story times

We have not yet been able to organize a story time in the library, but story telling with some basic training for our story tellers should become an essential part of the service we provide for non-Europeans. I have tried story telling as an experiment which worked successfully with children attending a Bantu farm school. There were 50 children in this group and I told them a fairy story with a European background and an African folktale. They told me three stories in the vernacular, stories centreing round their tribal customs, stories of life and death and the changing of the human "skin" for that of a bird or an animal.

Not only children love our fairy tales. I once happened to overhear a nanny telling a charming fairy tale to a group of her young charges. She told me that she had remembered this story from her school teacher and even after 15 years she repeated it perfectly. She and some of her friends add to their store of tales now by reading the books belonging to their employers' children.

Linking library services with other cultural activities

A view point accepted by many librarians is that the librarian should concern himself mainly with the task of providing books, but in the case of the non-European it is of particular importance that for the present, library assistants should be encouraged to work in close co-operation with other cultural activities in their communities and to link books and library services with such activities. In Sharpeville for example, the librarian has formed a committee of interested teachers and he works with the close support of the schools on a planned programme of reading. He not only issues books and talks to the children, but children are encouraged to read books and to present summaries of books to the librarian.

An art display in this library attracted wide attention, and brought many new members, besides stimulating an interest in art books. With the encouragement of his members, this librarian started a Bantu Arts and Crafts Club which recently displayed its grass and bead work in the hobbies exhibition in the Town Hall in Vereeniging. Because of the interest in books on ballroom dancing, the librarian has started a dancing club which now has regular practices. The librarian runs a dramatic club which regularly produces plays in English, Afrikaans and Sotho. There is a service for the non-European hospital patients. (This librarian is a busy man. He feels, however, that without the constant support and help of his Chief Librarian, Mrs. T. Visser, he could not carry out his duties successfully. As a result of their joint efforts in recent years the library grant has increased from £35 per annum to £835.)

In our own library we have been very satisfied with the interest shown by our borrowers in books on display. We have instituted a simple reserved books section as a result. The borrowers hand in their names and the titles of books they are interested in, and they ask each time they visit the library if their turn has come for the books they reserved. We are planning regular book displays so that our borrowers can see what books the library possesses on a particular topic.

Survey of books and periodicals found among the Bantu living in the Pretoria area

A recent survey undertaken among several hundred Bantu in the Pretoria area revealed that some 50 per cent of the individuals and families covered, bought religious books, about 38 per cent possessed school and study books, and about 8 per cent had thrillers and light romances in their homes.

About 38 per cent of the families covered read *Zonk* and *Drum*. It is interesting to know that the non-European who buys the *Drum* usually buys the other also and probably one copy of each reaches 5 people. *Zonk* has a circulation of 68,000 and *Drum* some 75,000. *Drum* reaches people outside the Union. These two papers have a sales circulation of 143,000 and a probable reading circulation of 715,000: this is probably higher now. About 27 per cent buy the *Outspan*. This survey found a general interest in a wide variety of magazines, all

kinds of digests, general, sporting and local periodicals, women's weeklies, stage and cinema. (Among my own correspondence were several requests for *Punch* and overseas papers like the *Illustrated London news*.)

Of newspapers the *Bantu World* is the most popular non-European paper. About 30 per cent of the householders covered in the survey read this paper. About 59 per cent read the *Rand Daily Mail*, some 54 per cent read the *Star* and about 39 per cent read the *Sunday Times* (I have discovered that many non-Europeans club together to share the expenses of newspapers and periodicals). From a study of the photographs found in the homes studied in this survey, it is evident that there is a fairly general interest in members of the Royal family, in the Church and in well-known personalities both in South Africa and abroad. Little evidence was found of any interest in the formation of home libraries.

The survey found that at present the non-European reads mainly in English and this is in spite of the fact that with the African, English is a "foreign" language. This is, I believe, the experience of most libraries. Non-Europeans read mainly in English, probably because of the wider variety of reading matter which is available in the English language.

Progress in education

Before concluding this study, some reference must be made in passing to vital statistics which are well worth our serious consideration. As you are aware, the present literacy standard has gone up from 21.8 per cent in 1951 to 25 per cent in 1956. To-day there are some 1½ million Bantu children in schools (about 48 per cent). The Department of Native Affairs plans improvements in education and within 15-20 years all Bantu children of school going age should have schooling facilities. (It is reckoned to-day that in urban areas in the 7-10 age groups the literacy standard is already as high as 70 per cent. In the higher age groups it is smaller and weighed in the negative by lack of opportunity.)

The *Bantu Educational Journal* of April 1957 gives us some interesting figures:

209,049	Bantu children at school in	1925
351,908	" " " " "	1935
578,586	" " " " "	1945
1,005,774	" " " " "	1955

It is worth noting that during the decade from 1945 to 1955, enrolment at Bantu schools in South Africa increased by almost 100 per cent - a striking increase quite unparalleled by any race in any country on the African Continent (*Bantu*, September 1957).

The *Intelligence Digest* of August 1957 reviews some of these interesting figures in an article entitled "Progress in Bantu education". To-day practically all Indian children and the great majority of Coloured children are in school, while half the Bantu children attend school - a proportion which is rising rapidly.

A total of 35,000 non-Whites are receiving secondary education. In 1955, 2,832 non-White University students were doing University courses, 57.8 per cent were external students enrolled with the University of South Africa. As we know, the Government is planning non-White university colleges which will make university training on an internal basis available to a far greater number of Bantu students. (Incidentally these universities might possibly provide a future training ground for our non-White librarians. The difficulty of course will be to find the staff to handle such a course.) In the annual report for 1956 the Secretary for Education gave some interesting figures which prove that the most popular faculty with non-Whites is pure arts. (1,095 Africans, 286 Coloureds and 541 Asiatics were studying pure arts, 64 Africans enrolled as teachers of whom 26 were graduates. 18 Coloureds and 25 Asiatics became teachers in 1956.)

Future developments

Looking towards the future, I have frequently wondered whether in time we might be able to build up central collections of films and records and particularly also of pictures - reproductions of the great works of art - which non-European libraries could borrow for short periods. To make library services more generally known we might be able to adopt the idea of the "Friends of the Library" and organize groups of interested persons who would study the services offered and help to interpret the library programme to their communities and talk to people who might become interested to make use of available services.

We have already mentioned that our work with children is the most important feature of

our service. In an article published in *South African Libraries*, April 1954, entitled "The Library in the life of an African High School (Goromonzi)" written by Dr. R. Finlayson, it was pointed out that library periods should become an essential part of a school programme, firstly to encourage pupils to read abridged editions of the classics suitable for a limited vocabulary; in the second stage to introduce pupils to writers like John Buchan, Conan Doyle and E. Orszy, to teach them to read for pleasure as well as to improve their knowledge of English, and in the third stage to introduce standard authors like Jane Austen, the Brontës, Dickens and others. (At Kilnerton Institution different sets of abridged classics were placed in classrooms for the pupils who exchanged these first with each other and then with pupils in other classes. This simple experiment did much to improve the amount of reading done by the pupils.)

The reading habit is developing slowly and we can help it to grow if we can provide the majority of non-Europeans with library services at central points, where they can most easily make use of such libraries and with some guidance, certainly for the present, to help them to feel at home in the world of books, until such time as they have become familiar with libraries. Non-European libraries in South Africa require to be separated from all educational and social welfare authorities and to be brought under the direct supervision and care of European librarians, who are best fitted to give the guidance which is so very essential to every potential non-European borrower. As librarians we can give the best advice on library routine, in matters of finance and administration and staff, on book selection, display and arrangement, and as librarians we are perhaps best able to stand the shock of lost books and to find ways to handle this problem.

Die Kaapse Bibliotekaris/The Cape Librarian :

Official monthly journal of the Cape Provincial Library Service. Vol. 1, no. 1, November 1957. Distributed free by the Cape Provincial Library Service, 48, Keerom Street, Cape Town.

The appearance of this new library journal is to be welcomed on several grounds. Since the demise of *Cape Libraries/Kaaplandse Boekerye* in April 1947 there has been no professional journal specifically concerned with Cape public library development. *The Cape Librarian* however, sets out with a wider aim and more extensive resources. In a brief introduction (in Afrikaans), Mr. Theo Friis succinctly defines the main objects of the journal: to act as the mouthpiece for the "300 public libraries and 1,000 smaller library depots of the Cape Province", and to acquaint each other and the world at large, with their problems and achievements.

The first number of the journal, which is neatly and economically produced by Rotaprint, carries articles in Nederlands by Dr. M. Wijnstroom on "Reading in the Cape Province", and in English by Dr. H. L. Oppenheimer on "Audio-visual service", and by Kiko Gaskell on "Recorded music versus live concert". Miss J. F. Joubert, Librarian at Kakamas,

writes (in Afrikaans) of the pioneer work done there "van biblioteek tot besprekingsgroep", and Miss E. Gillard of Fish Hoek describes her experiences with story hours in her library.

Of equal interest is the section "News of the regions", contributed by the Regional librarians, describing recent progress, and there are reviews of some recent English and Afrikaans books, and a select list of books and films added to the Library Service.

There are one or two minor slips - Currey's *History of St. Andrew's College, Grahamstown* is listed under *Law and Criminology* - but for a first number this issue of *The Cape Librarian* makes a pleasant and encouraging impression.

One of the difficulties of organizing library service in an area as large as the Cape, is to maintain adequate communications. This journal is specially designed to overcome this difficulty: it will appear monthly, and will be distributed free of charge to all members of the Cape Provincial Library Service. In welcoming this newest recruit to our South African professional literature, may we wish *The Cape Librarian* long life and great success?

D. H. V.

'N KORT SAMEVATTING VAN 'N OPNAME VAN PLATTELANDSE NIE-BLANKE BIBLIOTEKE IN NATAL

deur

C. H. VERMEULEN

Natalse Provinsiale Biblioteekorganiseerder

DIE NATALSE PROVINSIALE Biblioteekdiens het sy eerste nie-blanke biblioteekdepot in Maart 1953 gestig. Sedertdien is 17 nie-blanke depots gestig, waarvan 11 in Kusstreek, 4 in Middellandse Streek en 2 in Noordelike Streek geleë is. Een depot moes gesluit word weens gebrek aan behoorlike huisvesting.

Hoewel die Nie-Blanke Biblioteekdiens deel uitmaak van die Natalse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens, is dit 'n afsonderlike deel met 'n afsonderlike boekevoorraad, katalogus en stel biblioteekrekords. Nie-blanke depots word afsonderlik van Blanke depots gestig. Die amptelike regulasies maak voorsiening vir die stigting van nie-blanke biblioteekdepots in die gebiede van munisipaliteite, dorpe, gesondheidskomitees of ander bevolkingssentrums buite die gebiede van plaaslike besture, onderhewig aan die volgende voorwaardes:

- (i) Huisvesting en 'n ere-biblioteekaris wat deur die biblioteekorganiseerder goedgekeur is, moet verskaf word;
- (ii) Enige nie-blanke woonagtig in die gebied bedien deur die depot moet toegelaat word om, sonder betaling van ledegeld, boeke uit te neem om tuis te lees;
- (iii) Die ander regulasies wat van toepassing is op die blanke depots moet ook deur die nie-blanke depots nagekom word.

Volgens die sensus van 1951 is daar 1,723,743 nie-blankes op die platteland van Natal woonagtig, wat die volgende getalle van die drie rassegroepe insluit: 1,592,461 naturelle, 121,041 Indiërs en 10,241 kleurlinge. Die totale aantal nie-blankes wat van die Biblioteekdiens gebruik maak is 2,815, d.w.s. 0.16 persent, van wie 1,055 volwassenes en 1,760 kinders is. Dit

sluit ongeveer die volgende getalle van die drie rassegroepe in: 1,300 naturelle, 1,470 Indiërs en 45 kleurlinge.

Die totale getal boeke wat sedert die aanvang van die nie-blanke biblioteekdiens deur geaffilieerde biblioteekdepots aan hul lede uitgereik is, is 38,584. 'n Ontleding van hierdie syfer toon die volgende getalle en persentasies:

Engelse nie-verhalende boeke: 2,832 – 9.9 persent van die totaal boeke gelees.

Engelse verhalende boeke vir volwassenes: 22,067 – 57.1 persent van die totaal boeke gelees.

Engelse verhalende boeke vir kinders: 11,736 – 30.4 persent van die totaal boeke gelees.

Afrikaanse nie-verhalende boeke: 41 – 0.1 persent van die totaal boeke gelees.

Afrikaanse verhalende boeke vir volwassenes: 391 – 1 persent van die totaal boeke gelees.

Afrikaanse verhalende boeke vir kinders: 178 – 0.4 persent van die totaal boeke gelees.

Zoeloe-boeke: 339 – 0.8 persent van die totaal boeke gelees.

Afrikaanse boeke is slegs sedert Julie 1955 aan nie-blanke depots uitgereik.

Slegs 'n uiters beperkte aantal boeke in Zoeloe is verkrygbaar, wat 'n baie groot probleem is in die verskaffing van leesstof aan naturelle in Natal.

As die sirkulasiesyfers wat hierbo genoem is as geheel bereken word, werk die uit op 'n gemiddeld van 1.2 boeke per lid per maand, 'n uiters onbevredigende syfer. Die maklikste uitweg aan ons kant sou wees om sonder meer die verskoning aan te voer dat biblioteekdienste aan nie-blankes nie die moeite werd is nie, aangesien nie-blankes dit nie na waarde kan

skat nie. Ons het egter nie hierdie houding ingeneem nie. Ons was steeds bewus van die moontlikheid dat ons miskien nie die geskikte boeke aan die nie-blankes verskaf het nie omdat ons nie voldoende kennis besit het van die behoeftes van naturelle, Indiërs en kleurlinge nie en omdat ons miskien nie voldoende rekening gehou het met die opvoedkundige standaard van die lesers nie. Om hierdie rede het ons toe 'n opname gemaak van verskeie nie-blanke biblioteek-depots. Die doel van die opname was om inligting in te win oor die volgende aspekte :

1. Tot watter mate boeke wat reeds verskaf is, gebruik is.
2. Die tipes boeke wat geskik is vir nie-blankes.
3. Die moontlikhede van die ontwikkeling van lees by nie-blankes.

Die metode wat gevolg is, was om 'n deeglike ondersoek in te stel by al die biblioteekdepots, 'n ondersoek wat die volgende aangeleenthede behels het : (i) 'n Kontrole oor die boekevoorraad, sirkulasie en die bereikbaarheid van die biblioteekfasiliteite deur die lesers ; (ii) die verkryging van die menings van die bibliotekarisse en andere aangaande die geskikte boeke ; (iii) die versameling, uitsifting en balansering van die inligting terwyl die verskille tussen die biblioteke in gedagte gehou word met betrekking tot tipes bevolking, huisvesting en vrywillige dienste wat gelewer word.

Opname te Edendale

Dit sal onmoontlik wees om in die beperkte ruimte tot my beskikking, al die verskillende opnames te behandel. Ek het dus 'n voorbeeld gekies n.l. die nie-blanke depot te Edendale, ongeveer ses myl van Pietermaritzburg. Hierdie biblioteek bedien 'n groot gevestigde gemeenskap van naturelle, Indiërs en 'n geringe aantal kleurlinge. Dit is gehuisves in 'n klein biblioteekgeboutjie by die geboue van die Gesondheidskomitee te Plessislaer. Dit bied uitstekende geleentheid vir toegang tot die boeke, aangesien die biblioteekgebou afgesonder is van die hoofgebou en nie deur die aktiwiteite aldaar geaffekteer word nie. Die biblioteek is oop vir die nie-blanke publiek, van 4 n.m. tot 6 n.m. in die week en van 12 middag tot 6 n.m. op Saterdag en Sondag. Die biblioteek het 'n ledetal van 1,053 waarvan 360 volwassenes en 693 kinders

is. Die rassesaamenstelling van die lesers is soos volg : 60 persent Indiërs, 38 persent naturelle en 2 persent kleurlinge. Die opname van die biblioteek is deurgevoer van Augustus 1955 tot September 1957. Die biblioteek is voorsien van 'n groot verteenwoordigende versameling boeke. Die uitreikings van boeke aan lesers is in kategorieë verdeel volgens die tipes van boeke, en die uitreikings in elke kategorie is aangeteken gedurende die tydperk van opname.

Die persentasies van die kategorieë wat uitgereik is, is soos volg :

Engelse nie-verhalende boeke :	6.1%	} van
Engelse verhalende boeke vir volwassenes :	55.7%	
Engelse verhalende boeke vir kinders :	35.6%	} totaal
Afrikaanse boeke :	0.3%	
Zoeloe boeke :	2.1%	
		boeke gelees.

Die persentasies van die tipes uitgereik in die twee grootste kategorieë, is soos volg :

Engelse verhalende boeke vir volwassenes :

Liefdesverhale	37	persent
Westelike verhale	29.7	persent
Speurverhale	16.2	persent
Algemeen	10.7	persent
Avontuur	4.1	persent
Histories	1.8	persent

Engelse verhalende boeke vir kinders :

Avontuur	68.4	persent
Algemeen	23.5	persent
Skool	7.6	persent

Die gevolgtrekkings waartoe ons gekom het deur die ontleding van die uitreikings by die nie-blanke biblioteek te Edendale is gestaaf deur samesprekings wat ons met die bibliotekarisse en met die onderwysers van die sekondêre skool aldaar gehou het en tot 'n groot mate deur die ontledings by ander nie-blanke biblioteke, met enkele uitsonderings.

Die lees van nie-verhalende boeke te Edendale is betreklik laag (6.1 persent). Die algemene neiging by die nie-blanke biblioteek is dat nie-verhalende uitreikings hoër is in oorwegend naturelle-gemeenskappe en laer is in oorwegend Indiër-gemeenskappe. By Mapumulo, wat uitsluitend 'n naturelle-gemeenskap is, is die persentasie nie-verhalende uitreikings

25-6 persent. Die populêrste tipes nie-verhalende boeke is lewensbeskrywings, reisbeskrywings, oorlogsverhale, Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis en sport. Dit word blykbaar deur opgevoede nie-blankes gelees. 'n Ander ooglopende kenmerk van leesgewoontes by nie-blankes is dat die persentasie liefdesverhale besonder hoog is in oorwegend Indiër-gemeenskappe.

Leesgewoontes

Die wel-opgevoede naturel lees blykbaar dieselfde tipes boeke as opgevoede blankes. Die oorgrote meerderheid nie-blanke lesers is egter nie voldoende opgevoed om die ernstiger soort novelle te kan verstaan nie, b.v. dié wat 'n sielkundige aspek behandel of wat 'n lewenswyse wat hulle nie verstaan nie, as agtergrond het. Die eenvoudiger tipe verhaal vind byval aangesien dit maklik deur hulle verstaan word, b.v. westelike verhale wat hoofsaaklik handeling is en wat in vorm welbekend aan nie-blankes is deur middel van die bioskoop. 'n Ander voorbeeld is speurverhale, wat hulle kan verstaan, aangesien hulle tot 'n mate in die handeling van die karakters weerspieëlings van hul eie emosies sien. Oor die algemeen word egter minder speurverhale as westelike verhale gelees, aangesien speurverhale 'n mate van dinkwerk vereis. Algemene romans wek weinig belangstelling aangesien karakteruitbeelding meestal die hoofkenmerk daarvan uitmaak, of

aangesien die verwickelingsplan te subtiel is.

Historiese romans wat handeling insluit behoort as 'n goeie aanknopingspunt te dien tot die aankweek van beter leesgewoontes by die nie-blankes. Ander moontlikhede is verkorte verwerkings van standaardwerke, eenvoudige lewensbeskrywings wat geskik is vir kinders en elementêre boeke oor wetenskaplike onderwerpe.

Die stygende ledetal van die nie-blanke biblioteekdepots toon dat ons daarin slaag om die belangstelling van die lesende nie-blanke te wen in die begin, maar met verloop van tyd toon die daling in sirkulasie in verhouding tot ledetal dat ons nie daarin slaag om sy belangstelling te behou nie. Dit is 'n groot probleem wat opgelos moet word. Miskien is dit nie ons fout nie, maar 'n eienskap van die nie-blanke. Ons moet egter poog om hulle aan te moedig om meer gebruik te maak van die biblioteekdiens. Ons hoop lê daarin, dat die verbetering in onderwysfasiliteite daartoe sal lei dat toekomstige nie-blanke geslagte meer bewus sal word van die waarde van biblioteke. Daar is ook bemoedigende verskynsels b.v. die feit dat 63 persent van ons nie-blanke lesers kinders is en dat nie-verhalende leesstof 9-9 persent van die totale sirkulasie uitmaak. Hierdie verskynsels is aanduidings dat die nie-blanke biblioteke, met behulp van ons volgehoue oortuigingswerk en aanmoediging, wel in die toekoms 'n bate sal wees in die kulturele ontwikkeling van die nie-blanke volkere.

BOOK REVIEW

The 2nd edition of *World Medical Periodicals* prepared under the auspices of a Committee jointly sponsored by the World Medical Association, and the International Union of the Medical Press published this year will be a most welcome addition to the armamentarium of the Medical reference librarian.

The second edition lists 4841 items as compared with 3908 in the first edition. In addition to listing the place of publication this edition lists the publisher's address.

South African publications are more fully listed in this edition than in the previous one.

This edition retains the same excellent arrangement of indexes by subject and country, the text itself having an alphabetical arrangement. In addition two new appendixes list the principal international abstracting journals and the principal periodical indexes.

G. GLICKMAN

NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE

by

BETTY LEVY

Librarian, Bloemfontein Public Library

THERE ARE, at present, in the O. F. S., three different types of service to non-Europeans. The first is limited to scholars of the group classed as Coloureds as distinguished from the Bantu or African. The schools for Coloured pupils fall under the O. F. S. Education Department and, like the European schools which are controlled by the same Department, are subsidized on the £ for £ system. That is, whatever money the school can collect from the pupils, or activities such as bazaars and sports, forms a school fund. The Department gives an amount equal to that which has been collected for the school fund each year. The school fund is used for a variety of things, pictures, gramophone records, sports equipment and, if so desired, library books may be included. All the Coloured schools have spent some money on books, but none of them has a fully developed library. The books are usually distributed to form classroom libraries and are used at school but not taken home.

The second service is undertaken by the Director of Bantu Education and is for scholars at Bantu Schools and for students at African Training Colleges. The three O. F. S. Training Colleges, the Stoffberg at Viljoensdrift, the Moroka at Thaba 'Nchu and the Strydom in Bloemfontein, have a school fund of 10/- a scholar a year. This school fund is intended to cover the "additional" items not automatically provided and books are included as one of these items. I was unable to find out from the Director how much of the school fund each of the three Training Colleges devotes to books, but all of them spend something each year and each has a library, although according to the Director these libraries need to be built up by the weeding out of present stocks and the addition of carefully chosen new books.

The two services so far described are limited to scholars and students, Coloured and Bantu. But the third service, known as the O. F. S. Non-European Library Service and administered by the Bloemfontein Public Library, supplies books when requested to the general public, Bantu and Coloured, adult and child.

O. F. S. NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY SERVICE

(i) *History*

Very briefly, the history of the Service is as follows. At the end of 1932 the Carnegie Corporation of New York made a grant of 2,500 dollars for the establishment of non-European library services in the O. F. S. A condition was that at least 90 per cent of the grant should be devoted to the purchase of books and thus not more than 10 per cent to administrative expenses. It was decided that the Service should take the form of boxes of books, sent out to centres in schools, Training Colleges and native villages whenever applications were made and somebody could be found to take charge of the books.

The portion of the grant which could be used for administrative costs was spent before the inauguration of the scheme since books had to be ordered, accessioned and prepared for use and boxes had to be provided to convey the books; when the scheme itself was launched it was clear that there would have to be some provision for administrative costs such as railage, stationery and postages, since the grant could not be used for that purpose. Many of the native schools gave donations and in the following year, 1933, the O. F. S. Native Education Department offered an annual grant of £60

and it was felt that the service could safely be established.

(ii) *Form of service*

(a) *Boxes and issues*

The Service has continued in much the same form as the original venture for 25 years. The books are sent out in stout wooden boxes which, when opened can be converted into bookshelves. Each box contains 100 books and centres are urged to send back the books for exchange at least twice a year. Special requests are encouraged and where books are found unsuitable or uninteresting a few may be sent back at a time for exchange. A card on which its issues are to be recorded accompanies each book. Records of issues are so often not kept at all or are so obviously at fault that it has been impossible to draw up any reliable statistics of circulation. In 1932 when the Service started there were 4 centres, in 1952 there were 14 centres, and in 1957 there are only 6 centres sufficiently active to be taken into consideration. Of these 6 centres, 3 are at mine compounds, 2 are in native villages and one is at a school.

(b) *Bantu Social Institute*

In addition to the centres there are two small standing libraries. The one at the Bantu Social Institute at Batho Native Village, Bloemfontein, was established as far back as 1944 and, in spite of the unsuitability of a room in a private club as premises, it started with some enthusiasm and with a stock of 1,623 books; the work of issuing the books was done voluntarily by members of the club. In 1945, however, a survey of the Bantu Institute Library revealed that no accurate records had been kept and that out of the stock of 1,623 books, more than half were missing. The Library was reorganized and a part-time paid librarian was appointed who set to work to track the 833 missing books so vigorously that more than three-quarters were traced. The Library has continued to open daily from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., but has shown little development. Membership seldom rises above 200, the average annual book circulation figure is 1,500. The membership is predominantly juvenile.

The Bantu Institute Library has been provided with some basic reference books and receives regular copies of the two local daily newspapers and four magazines of its own

choice, which vary from year to year. But the room is badly lighted and comfortless and there is little inducement to sit and read on the premises.

(c) *Heatherdale Library*

In 1955 a library was established at Heatherdale, the residential area for the Coloured population of Bloemfontein in a Church Hall. The proposal that this library be established came from the Business and Professional Women's Club, whose members collected and mended books and took turns in issuing them until this work was taken over voluntarily by some of the residents. The beginnings of the Heatherdale Library echoed the early history of the Bantu Social Institute. In 1956 the library was closed down through lack of interest, but stock-taking revealed that the lack of interest was probably due to the fact that more than half of the books were missing. In 1957 the Heatherdale Library was reopened in a room provided by the Municipality at the newly built Heatherdale Social Centre and now open three afternoons a week from 2-5 under a paid part-time librarian. The local daily newspapers and four other magazines are provided, but as yet no reference stock has been built up. Children are necessarily excluded since the activities of the Social Centre are limited to adults and there is no separate entrance to the Library. Issues vary considerably from month to month and it is difficult to know if they are recorded accurately. Conversations with the part-time Librarian and with some of the members have revealed the fact that what the majority of the residents want from their library is a limitless supply of wild west stories, detective novels and the lightest of love stories. The O. F. S. Non-European Library Service is not prepared to stock one of its libraries wholly or even mainly with works of this type, but at the same time realizes that the readers are given no help in their choice of reading matter and that there is nobody to advise them or to lead them to better literature.

(iii) *Book stock*

Excluding the books at the Bantu Social Institute and at Heatherdale, the O. F. S. Non-European Service has a stock of 8,700 books of which only 833 are in the African vernacular. The Service has received a large number of gifts of books from European schools and from

individuals and has been given the Public Library's discarded books when these were suitable and in good condition. A bookstock built up mainly in this way cannot consist of the best books or the most suitable or the most interesting. To the motley collection acquired in this way have been added new books, carefully chosen but insufficient in number. The Carnegie grant has, throughout the years, been used, a little at a time, as sparingly as possible. It was exhausted this year.

(iv) *Finance*

In addition to the reserve fund for books formed by the Carnegie grant the O. F. S. Library Service has had the following grants-in-aid. In 1949 the O. F. S. Native Education Department voluntarily increased its annual grant to £100. When the control over Native Education was relinquished by the Provinces the annual grant of £100 was continued by the Regional Office of Bantu Education. Since 1944 the Bloemfontein Municipality has given £25 a year towards the salary of the part-time Librarian at the Bantu Social Institute (whose total salary amounts to over £84 a year). Since the part-time librarian was appointed at Heatherdale this year, the Native Administration Department has paid him a salary of £3 a month. Thus the O. F. S. Non-European Library Service has at its disposal, if the Heatherdale librarian's £36 a year is included (although this does not pass through the books of the service), a total of £161 a year. Out of this it has to provide books, newspapers and periodicals for two standing libraries and books to six centres and possibly more. It has to pay for all administrative costs including the railage on the boxes and to provide stationery for use not only at Heatherdale and the Bantu Social Institute, but throughout the service.

Discussions with the Regional Director of Bantu Education this year elicited the fact that

his office had taken over the £100 grant under the misapprehension that the O. F. S. non-European Library services were directly for the benefit of scholars, Training College students and teachers. Now that the position has been made clear the grant must discontinue and approach must be made to the Union Native Affairs Department, which is the body responsible for Libraries for the Bantu. If the Department does not continue the £100 grant, non-European library services in the O. F. S. must immediately collapse. If the grant is not considerably increased, they are very likely to collapse in any case.

Conclusions

In looking back on 25 years of Non-European Library Service in the O. F. S. there is little of which we can be proud. We have kept a service going, but it has been a uniformly mediocre service and there are indications that unless something is done even with the same or a somewhat larger income it will deteriorate still further. There is no contact with the centres, except through the unsatisfactory medium of correspondence; even in the case of the two local standing libraries there is little contact, since a visit to one of them means an afternoon away from other duties. The Bloemfontein Public Library, which administers the scheme, is in a period of very rapid growth. No additional staff is provided for non-European library work, which has to be fitted in between a multitude of other duties. As the demands of the citizens of Bloemfontein for service become more pressing, non-European library work is pushed farther into the background.

Nevertheless, I think all those in the O. F. S., connected with library work, are agreed that not only must service be maintained, but it is imperative that it be improved. We are hoping that the outcome of the 1957 Pretoria Library Conference will be that we shall learn the way to do it.

BIBLIOTEEKDIENSTE VIR DIE KLEURLINGE IN KAAPSTAD

deur

R. B. ZAAIMAN

Onder-biblioteekaris, Kaapstadse Stadsbiblioteke

IN KAAPSTAD woon daar om en by 'n 300,000 Kaapse kleurlinge, en ons diens is dus gerig op hierdie mense eerder as op die Bantoe. Vir lesers wat onbekend is met die Kaapse kleurling, moet ek sê dat hy en die blanke na aan mekaar staan wat lewenshouding betref. Hy het miskien meer lewenslus en onbevangenheid as die blanke, wat die lewe vir hom ryk en vol vreugde maak.

Wat werk betref, is meeste van hulle geskoolde vakmanne, en daar is ook 'n aansienlike groep besigheidsmanne en natuurlik onderwysers onder hulle, en 'n mens vind hulle ook in beroepe soos die medisyne, die wet en die openbare administrasie.

Om hulle kinders behoorlik opgevoed te kry is vir hul 'n saak van groot belang, en daar is meer nie-blanke kinders op skool as blankes, hoewel onderwys nie vir hulle verpligtend is nie.

U sien dus die agtergrond – 'n groot groep mense met 'n betreklike hoë lewensstandaard, en met 'n wye belangstellingsveld wat gedurig uitgebrei en verdiep word deur onderwys van goeie gehalte.

Onstaan en ontwikkeling

Die eerste biblioteekdiens wat spesifiek aan nie-blankes gerig is, het in 1934 ontstaan met die stigting van die Hyman Liberman-leeskamer. Hierdie leeskamer is geleë in die hartjie van die nie-blanke gebied wat as „Distrik ses” bekend staan. In 1942 is die Kaapse Vereniging vir Biblioteekuitbreiding gestig. Hierdie liggaam het meeste van sy inkomste van die stadsraad ontvang, en het sewe vrye bibliotekies in die nie-blanke gebiede gestig en onderhou.

In 1952 met die totstandkoming van die Stadsbiblioteke het die Stadsraad volle

verantwoordelikheid aanvaar vir die lewering van biblioteekdienste aan alle Kapenaars, wat hulle kleur ook al mag wees. Die biblioteke van die Kaapse Vereniging van Biblioteekuitbreiding en die Liberman-biblioteek is as takke van die Stadsbiblioteke ingeskakel. Ons bedien vandag nie-blankes uit 23 punte, wat soos volg saamgestel is: openbare takke, 11; biblioteekwaens, 2; deposito's in fabrieke, 3; en hospitale, 7. Die twee biblioteekwaens is ons twee grootste takke wat ledetal betref.

Die personeel in al die takke is nie-blankes, met uitsondering van die hospitaaldienste. Vier van die personelede is gekwalifiseer, en twee is besig met die kursus van die Universiteit van Kaapstad. Die persoon wat nou in beheer van die nie-blanke dienste staan, is terloops die eerste nie-blanke wat in Suid-Afrika gekwalifiseer het. Onder die ongekwalifiseerde personeel is daar 'n goeie klompie opgeleide onderwysers.

Lesers en leespatrone

Die eerste en mees aktiewe lesers was die kinders. Die onderwysers doen baie moeite om hul skoolkinders ingeskryf te kry; hulle gebruik die biblioteke vir skoolwerk sowel as vir vermaak: meeste van hulle skoolbiblioteke is nog klein en onontwikkeld. Die geweldige aanvraag na kinderboeke sou ons grys hare gegee het as dit nie so 'n aanmoediging was nie. Daardie beginkinders het nou tienderjarige geword, en ons moet nou voorsiening maak vir hulle behoefte aan avontuur en heldedade, en ook hul belangstelling in die moderne lewe en tegniek.

Dit is 'n tydperk waarin baie blanke lesers vir die biblioteek verlore raak, en met die kleurling

is daar die bykomende faktor dat hulle dikwels op hierdie ouderdom begin werk, en die volwasse lewe met al sy sosiale aktiwiteite ingaan sonder dat hulle met die boeke vir volwassenes kennis gemaak het.

Die leespatrone van die verskillende groepe van die kleurlingsamelewing, soos die arbeiders, die kinders en huisvrouens, en die onderwysers, dokters en ander intellektueles kom ooreen met die leesgewoontes van gelyke blanke groepe.

Een van die vrae wat dikwels aan ons gevra word is: „Wat lees die kleurling?” Die antwoord is: „Alles”. Net soos die blanke hang dit af van die betrokke persoon se ontwikkeling en sy gemoedstemming of behoefte van die oomblik. Die boeke in die nie-blanke biblioteke is van dieselfde gehalte en verskeidenheid as dié in die blanke biblioteke. Daar is 'n groot groep hoog-ontwikkelde nie-blankes wie se leesstandaard so hoog is as die beste blanke.

Stokperdjies en ander

Daar is natuurlik klein aanpassings. Om nou die betreklike klein veldjie van stokperdjies te neem: 'n mens moet in gedagte hou dat hulle ekonomies minder goeie is as die blankes, en dat hulle nie geld het vir duur stokperdjies nie. Hul stel egter veel belang in nuttige bedrywig-

hede soos naaldwerk, breiwerk, fotografie, leerwerk, kookkuns, houtwerk en tuinmaak. Die sportsoorte wat nie te duur is nie, soos voetbal, sokker en atletiek is wonderlik gewild. Meeste van die biblioteke is betreklik klein, met boekvoorrade van 3,000 tot 6,000 boeke, wat ons probeer om “vars” te hou.

Die nie-blankes maak goeie en intelligente gebruik van die hoor-en-sien materiaal wat ons beskikbaar stel. Ons langspeelplate van klassieke musiek word baie deur hul uitgeneem, en dié wat nie 'n grammofoon het nie, gebruik ons grammofoonkamer. Twee groepe het filmverenigings gestig en ons projektor word vir programme van hoogstaande gehalte gebruik.

Ten slotte wil ek sê dat die rangskikking van boeke op die rakke volgens Dewey 'n erge en 'n meulsteen om die nek is van mense wat biblioteke leer gebruik. Beter is Bliss, maar nog veel beter is die “Reader's interest arrangement” soos in Detroit gebruik, wat byvoorbeeld onder die opskrif stokperdjies boeke uit twintig klasse van Dewey op een rak bymekaarbring. Vir onopgeleide bibliotekaris is dit ook makliker want hulle hoef die katalogus min te gebruik: die boeke staan op die rakke soos die mense daarna vra, onder afskrifte soos *U huis*, *U kinders*, e.s.m.

NOTES ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ARCHITECTURE *

IN DESIGNING A LIBRARY, an architect assumes a responsibility for creating a building which will embody other elements than that of efficiency in its narrowest sense. A house has been described as a “machine for living”. This phrase has perhaps been frequently misconstrued. What was really intended, I think, was that a house be worthy of the beauty of intimate human relations, and indeed that it might even influence human relations for the better, art giving the lead to nature. A library, in common with the theatre and the art-gallery is the setting for the interplay between man and art-form, for “books are not absolutely dead things”¹. A library building must

be worthy of its contents, and the relations of that content with the library's users.

I emphasise this somewhat intangible factor in library design, because there would seem to be a tendency to regard library architecture as a type of factory architecture. Although it is certainly true that library design has a great deal in common with factory design, yet there are elements in the designs of theatres, of shops, of schools, of private dwellings, even of churches, which the architect of the library can study to his profit.

A library resembles a factory insofar as it is a productive machine, engaged in receiving
(continued on p. 103)

* From a foreword to an architectural thesis presented to the University of Natal by M. E. Kusner, November 1956. ¹Milton's *Areopagitica*.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PROGRESS

JULY 1956 – JUNE 1957

by

S. I. MALAN

FOR SOME YEARS now the annual conference of the South African Library Association has divided itself into different sections, meeting on the third day of the conference. The university and special libraries constitute one such section. The discussions at these sectional meetings have proved most useful, as can be seen from the general recommendations emerging from this group. One of the most important suggestions for the university libraries has been the closer co-operation between university, special, larger public and provincial libraries. The whole matter is still being investigated firstly on the basis of determining what exists, and secondly, what steps should be taken to ensure a better co-operation. The outcome of the survey regarding the existing facilities will be published in *South African Libraries* shortly. Regarding the second part, concrete suggestions will go before the next meeting of this section due to be held in Cape Town in September of next year. It is hoped that the scheme will embody suggestions not only for national but also for international co-operation.

During the year under review it has become evident that the universities are taking positive measures to combat the general shortage in trained library personnel by the establishment of training facilities at more centres. Apart from the Universities of Pretoria, Cape Town, South Africa and Potchefstroom where training facilities have already been established, the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Stellenbosch are proposing to inaugurate courses in 1958. The question is often raised whether this may not lead to an overproduction of librarians. As yet it is difficult, even dangerous, to attempt an answer; difficult because it is impossible to assess future library developments, and dangerous for fear we might scare prospective young men and women from the

profession and thereby lose the opportunity of a wider and better choice of candidates. There seems, however, little reason to believe that the profession will be overstocked if seen against the continual "loss" by marriage of many promising young librarians and the greater and better library facilities offered by our medium-sized municipalities under the stimulus of our provincial library schemes.

EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

In our previous report mention was made of the establishment of a *Department of Library Science* at the Potchefstroom University in which one full time senior lecturer was appointed as a member on the academic staff, sharing all their vacation, leave and pension privileges. At the end of the year five candidates (one male) qualified for the higher and one for the lower diploma. At the beginning of the 1957 academic year seventeen candidates registered for the two courses of whom 13, including five men, will sit for the final examinations of the higher diploma and two for the lower.

A great achievement for this Department was the recognition by the South African Library Association of the *University Diploma in Library Science of the Potchefstroom University* (i.e. the one year post graduate diploma course) as being of an equal standing with the Association's Final examination. Candidates possessing the U. D. L. S. may, after three years' experience in an approved library and with knowledge of two foreign languages, apply for the fellowship of the S. A. L. A.

Since the beginning of 1956 the University of Pretoria has acknowledged its own Library Science I course as an ordinary degree course which may now be taken by students who wish

to qualify as teachers, as part of their B. A. curriculum.

This has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of students in the Library Science course. At the beginning of 1957 seventy-five students registered. It is now also possible to take the whole of the B.A. in Library Science as a pre-requisite for the post-graduate education diploma.

Meanwhile the Universities of the *Witwatersrand* and *Stellenbosch* have decided to offer post-graduate diploma courses in library science as from 1958. The main difficulty now is to find suitable lecturers.

DONATIONS

As in the past our university libraries have again benefitted substantially from the generosity of benefactors, private and public alike, in fact so substantially that it is difficult to select the most important from a very long list. As space will not allow mention of all the names of donors, a few must suffice.

The University of *Natal* reports a further gift of £800 from Mrs. F. A. E. Powell, of which £500 is to be used for the purchase of works on early science and engineering and £300 on economic history. It has also been possible for this library to build a considerable collection of business histories through gifts.

The University of *Cape Town* Libraries have benefited by a legacy from the late Mrs. A. W. Rogers of some 2,000 volumes largely on geology, history of science and English literature. A gift of £700 was received from Messrs. B. A. Crasnow and H. Allschwang for Judaica and Hebraica. A collection of 75 volumes of illustrated editions of *Alice in Wonderland* was presented by Mr. J. S. I. McGregor of George. A most valuable gift received was that of 35 original manuscripts on vellum dating between 1657 and 1830, relating to grants of land to free burghers in Rondebosch, Cape, the subsequent transfers and the cessions of such property. The documents contain three signatures of Jan van Riebeeck, as well as those of many other Dutch governors and officials such as Ryk Tulbagh, Van Plettenburg and De Mist. The series ends with the signature of Lord Charles Somerset. The collection portrays the complete history of these properties for 300 years until acquired by Cecil Rhodes and as

presently owned by the University of Cape Town. Also included are several intact seals of the Dutch East India Company.

Some years ago Mr. E. W. Meyer from South West Africa presented to the *Potchefstroom* University Library a collection of documents relating to the *Dorsland Trek*, containing *inter alia* correspondence between the Trekkers and native chiefs, an original letter from A. H. Potgieter, report of a commission of enquiry regarding the trek north of Humpata until 1874, marriage registers 1876-1882 and memoirs of the Landdrost, Kommandant J. F. Botha, and other trekkers. Recently the Chief Archivist undertook to arrange, restore and bind these documents and have micro-film copies made.

The late Rev. R. F. Strathern, at one time senior chaplain to the Union Defence Forces, left 22 volumes of carefully indexed autographs with biographical notes to the *Record Library of the Church of the Province of South Africa* (incorporated in the Gubbins Library of the University of the *Witwatersrand*).

SPECIAL ACCESSIONS

No doubt our universities have enriched their library collections by purchasing many interesting and expensive items from which it is a difficult task to make a selection. Some readers may find it curious that such basic items as Pauly's *Realencyclopädie*, which form an essential and self-evident part of any university library collection, are enumerated at all. It must, however, be remembered that the average age of our university libraries is barely half a century and the addition of such an item is quite an event.

The *Potchefstroom* library has added to its general reference collection many items not commonly found in the collections of South African University libraries such as the *Encyclopédie Française*, the main French biographical dictionaries, Pauly's *Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaften*, the complete author and subject catalogues of the *Library of Congress*, Peddie's *Subject Index*, *Enciclopedia Italiana*, *Gesamt-Katalog der Wiegendrucke*, Graesse's *Trésor de livres*, Brunet's *Manuel du librairie* and many other items of bibliographical interest.

Special mention must be made of the facsimile copy of the *Lindisfarne Gospels* which has been purchased especially for the benefit of students in library science, and of an original *Liesvelt Bible*.

It is the policy of this University to buy as many back numbers as possible of periodicals to which it subscribes. During the year under review it has purchased amongst many others, sets of the following periodicals: *A. L. A. Bulletin* (1920-1947), *Biblioteekgids* (complete), *Biblioteekleven* (1920-1948), *Library journal* (1889-1951), *Public Libraries* (1896-1931), *Biometrika* (1901-1956) and *De Economist* (1852-1948). Although none of the present items in the collection of periodicals of the Potchefstroom University Library are yet listed in the *Catalogue of Union Periodicals* it is hoped that they will be included in the new edition.

To add to the valuable private libraries of old Cape families and institutions now in the possession of the Library of the University of Cape Town (such as the library from the Ballot family), this Library has acquired the remnants of an early 19th century library consisting of 103 volumes which belonged to the Swellendam Church Library established in 1834 and which flourished for some 50 years.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Though most of our university libraries possess one or more special collections of which more will be said in an article on library co-operation which is forthcoming, it is noteworthy to mention the Maurice Webb Collection of the University of Natal in which works written by Africans and Negroes are brought together. This collection is only in its embryo stage but already consists of several hundred items. Interesting too, was the competition open to non-European artists only, which was held in connection with a design for a bookplate for this collection. The competition was won by Selbourne Mvusi.

The Librarian of the University of the Witwatersrand reports that the ownership of the Gubbins Trust material, comprising Burchell's South African drawings, the Bell and Daniell drawings, and several other manuscripts, was transferred to the University by the sole surviving trustee. One additional South African

and three further South American Burchell drawings have been purchased.

The library of this university has also started a special collection of Portuguese literature following the establishment of the Ernest Oppenheimer Institute of Portuguese Studies, opened in 1957. This was made possible by the generous grant in 1953 of £60,000 by the De Beers Company payable over 12 years for the establishment of a Chair of Portuguese Studies. This collection is housed in the main library.

BINDERIES

With the establishment of a library bindery at the University of Natal there now are five universities in the Union with their own binderies viz. Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Potchefstroom and now Natal.

The Potchefstroom University library has experimented with the perfect binding process in which the so-called *Lambeck glue* is used and has found it so satisfactory that an automatic glueing machine has been purchased. This step was further justified by the results of research published in an article in *Biblioteekgids*.¹ In this paper mention is made of the successful use of the glue in 1934 and of its lasting qualities after almost a quarter-century.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

The Library of the University of Natal has purchased a Xerograph machine. According to the librarian "this machine photographs and develops in about two minutes any printed, written or drawn material, and reproduces them on any type of paper required. The process is a completely dry one and involves no darkening of the room or the use of chemicals . . . If so wished the item photographed can be reproduced on a multilith stencil and then run off in the number of copies required."

LIBRARY ACCOMMODATION

From all quarters of the Union come reports of the erection of new university library buildings, the extension of some and the planning of yet others. The Universities of South Africa,

¹ *Biblioteekgids*, 32 (5), Sept.-Oct. 1956, p. 121.

Natal and *Rhodes* have started on plans for new central libraries, while the University of the *Orange Free State* is considering an extension.

At the University of *Pretoria* an extension of the Merensky Library has almost doubled the available space. This extension was planned on a modular system with almost no inner walls, partitioning being provided by the book shelves. The size of the module is 27'x27' which necessitated rather heavy beams and pillars. The internal arrangement of the shelving has been so planned that fifteen subject reading rooms have been provided. In each of these there are to be found the relative reference books adjoining the open access shelving on which the subject literature is housed. Ample provision has been made for administrative purposes. This extension has been occupied during the June/July vacation and the official opening of the building took place on the 30th September 1957, coinciding with the opening of the South African Library Association's Conference in the same building.

Owing to the extent of the extra-mural courses run by the University of *Pretoria* during the evenings it has now become necessary to provide proper library facilities for these students. Consequently preliminary plans have already been drawn up for the Macfadyen Library which will form part of the new extra-mural building. Seating accommodation for *circa* 300 readers and storing facilities for *circa* 40,000 volumes will be provided.

As part of the new building for the School of Architecture the University of *Cape Town* has passed plans for better accommodation of its architectural library. The new building provides for the storage of lantern slides, for filing large numbers of architectural plans, and for housing trade catalogues, the information and the illustrations collection.

At the University of *Pretoria* the Central Medical Library, situated on the first floor of one section of the clinical building, was opened in October 1956. Seating accommodation for 120 readers is provided while 30,000 books can be housed. At the University of the *Witwatersrand* the new building for the Faculty of Architecture and the Department of Arts and Sciences, at present under construction, will house a Divisional Library incorporating a reading room, service desk, work room, all fitted with specially designed shelving.

As part of its new music block the *Potchef-*

stroom University is planning a library to provide, besides reading and listening facilities, accommodation for its collections of music books, periodicals, scores and gramophone records.

PERSONALIA

The only major shift which took place in the personnel of the university libraries was the resignation of Miss A. C. Dick, who was in charge of the Witwatersrand Medical School Library and who joined the staff of that Library some twelve years ago. Miss Dick has been appointed on the library staff of the University College of *Rhodesia* and *Nyasaland* where she will be in charge of the cataloguing department. Miss M. B. Lucas is to be her successor.

PUBLICATIONS

As in the past, university librarians have again contributed their full share towards the bibliography of South African library literature as inter alia the four issues of *South African Libraries* testify. To the pages of this journal Messrs. D. A. Clarke (University College of *Rhodesia* and *Nyasaland*), F. G. van der Riet (*Rhodes*), O. H. Spohr (Cape Town), H. L. Maple (*Natal*), H. C. van Rooy and S. I. Malan (*Potchefstroom*), P. C. Coetzee (*Pretoria*) and Misses E. Hartmann (*Witwatersrand*) L. E. Taylor and Mrs. R. M. Wertheimer (Cape Town) contributed articles on many different phases of librarianship.

In the series *Publikasies van die Universiteit van Pretoria* (N.S.) appeared as number one¹ a useful guide to the preparation of research papers by Dr. P. C. Coetzee, librarian of the University of *Pretoria*. As a joint effort with H. J. Aschenborn, he published in mimeographed form the letter A of a list² of Afrikaans library terms which will prove most useful for students in library science and librarians as a whole in South Africa.

The thesis³ which H. J. Aschenborn submitted for the M.A. degree in Library Science

¹ P. C. Coetzee. *Gids by die voorbereiding van wetenskaplike geskrifte*. Universiteit van Pretoria, 1956.

² P. C. Coetzee en H. J. Aschenborn. *Verklarende woordelys van Afrikaanse biblioteekkundige vakterme - A*. (Mimeographed).

³ H. J. Aschenborn. *Sachkatalogisierung nach Trebst*. In *Musaion*, nos. 15-16.

at the University of Pretoria has been published in *Musaion*.

At the University of Cape Town four more student bibliographies were published in the *Bibliographical Series of the School of Librarianship* while three scarce and out of print items¹ were reproduced jointly with the South African Library in the *Willem Hiddingh Reprint Series*. Three more items in the *Booklist* series have also been issued.

The preliminary lists of dissertations and theses of the South African universities compiled by Mr. S. I. Malan, have been duplicated and are now being circulated amongst university and other libraries to be checked against their holdings. The final catalogue will, however, not appear before 1958 and it is hoped that a grant from the National Council for Social Research will make possible the publication of the union catalogue in printed form.

(continued from p. 98)

material and making it available for use, with as little awkwardness as possible. The "flow" of the manufactured article from one process to another has similarities to the flow of the purchased or donated book through the processes of accessioning and cataloguing to the shelf. Again the economic storage of books has something in common with warehousing in the factory. On the other hand, in *displaying* as distinct from housing books, the librarian or architect can often learn something from the multiple store for some types of books, and from the museum for others.

A library has similar problems of "control" to a cinema in that all must "come out by the same door as in they go", (not however, we hope, in Omar Khayam's sense). This is essential in that a library must always economize on 'control' staff, and be so designed that in an emergency, however large the building, it can be effectively controlled even by a single person. Furthermore, a University library should be so designed that necessary sections of the building can be completely shut off, leaving other sections functioning normally. The effect of fire hazards in a library building are, perhaps, also similar to that in a cinema.

The designer of a University library can also learn a little from school design, because after all, a library is an educating machine. The head librarian, like the headmaster, must be so placed in the building that he continues to be very intimately connected with all that is going on, and does not degenerate into a remote control high executive.

The happiest and most natural relationship between man and his books can be found in his private study or library which fifty years ago was regarded as an essential component of even a small two-bedroomed house. Something of the intimacy of this relationship must be carried over to the modern library building, hence the tendency against the large reading room which in a busy library tends to resemble the concourse of a main-line railway station. It is not only the private study which can be examined with profit, but indeed the whole machinery inherent in the design of a private dwelling. The library, like a house, has a tradesman's entrance; its kitchen resembles the cataloguing and accessioning departments, its dining-room the reading rooms, and perhaps the defunct drawing-room the section for rarer works with their restricted clientele.

Modern architects are rather distrustful of the word "monumental", possibly because in the last fifty years the word has tended to suggest something extraneous added on to a very ordinary building, rather than an intrinsic characteristic of the building as a whole. But a library should *impress*. It has been said that in this insolent age, the library shares with the church, the honour of being the only type of building in which "on entering, one instinctively lowers one's voice." Long may architects continue to design buildings of a type which will encourage this practice!

The designer of the modern university library, while he must not forget the intangibili-

(continued on p. 107)

¹ W. B. Boyce, *A grammar of the Kafir language*; C. E. Boniface, *Kockinkoz* and J. C. MacGregor, *Basuto traditions*.

SOME RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN BOOKS IN ENGLISH

Reviewed by

Z. M. PLAISTOWE

City Libraries, Cape Town

FICTION

Elisio, Alecia. *Bitter journey.* C. N. A. (Dassie Book) 173 p.

The Great Trek and the hardships suffered by the people who were moving northward are material for a dramatic and stirring tale. It is a pity that another ill-written novel has been set in this period. The story has been told before; sudden and horrible death at the hands of Zulu impis; brave deeds of upstanding young men; love and hatred; slavers and hunters. With those readers who like a good dramatic story and are not particular about its literary merit, this book will be popular.

Wiesmar, Chriss. *The lowly and the worldly.* C. N. A. (Dassie Book) 149 p.

Three of the five children of Willem Wiesmar and his African wife Misota can pass for white. They leave home and disowning their family establish themselves in the city. This is their story and the story of their family. An emotional novel of South Africa to-day, it avoids the pit-fall of sentimentalism. The book is written in a simple and straightforward style and the writer makes a great deal of use of the English-Afrikaans idiom. An interesting and thought-provoking novel.

RACE RELATIONS

Keet, B. B. *The ethics of Apartheid.* (Hoernlé Memorial Lecture, no. 13) S.A. Institute of Race Relations. 19 p.

The publication of this Hoernlé Memorial lecture has given people an opportunity of learning Professor Keet's ideas on Race Relations. It is a statement of the ideals of a sincere and honest churchman which must command

the respect even of those of his countrymen who do not agree with him. It is doubly valuable in demonstrating to an outside world too apt to generalize on English and Afrikaans differences of opinion, that individual South Africans may have a liberal outlook, tolerance and foresight.

STAMPS

Rosenthal, Eric and Blum, Eliezer. *The Cape of Good Hope Triangular Stamp and its story.* Balkema. 47 p.

This slim volume is a valuable contribution to philatelist literature. Mr. Rosenthal has collected together all the facts which led to the printing of the Triangular stamps. The establishment of the penny post in South Africa, the men who were responsible for it; the crisis which arose when the stamps ran out and a block had to be locally cut and the stamps hurriedly printed, all make fascinating reading. There is a valuable checklist and price chart of current market values by Eliezer Blum.

AGRICULTURE

Hurwitz, N. *Agriculture in Natal 1860-1950* (Natal Regional Survey v. 12) O. U. P. for the University of Natal. 123 p.

The University of Natal through their Regional Surveys are building up a valuable picture of the social and economic structure of the province of Natal. Their work deals with the development of agriculture from the earliest days and includes chapters on the two important industries of wattle and sugar. There are excellent tables and diagrams. A useful reference work.

AGRICULTURE

Beater, B. E. *Soils of the Sugar Belt* (Part I, Natal North Coast) (Natal Regional Survey, Report no. 3). O. U. P. for the University of Natal. 103 p.

This is the first comprehensive survey of the soils of the Sugar Belt. Two further reports are to follow . . . "One objective has been to present information on the physical and chemical characteristics of the derived soil series and types". The fertility of the soils is discussed and the distribution and area of the different groups. A coloured map depicts the distribution of the North Coast soil groups. The map alone must have involved a vast amount of research and hard work. A valuable contribution to the science of the soil.

PAINTINGS

Van Alphen, W. D. de Vignon. *Knysna Forest Scenery*. Balkema. 20 p.

Little is known of the life or work of the nineteenth century artist de Vignon van Alphen. In the introduction to this book of sketches Professor Bax, tells us all he knows of the man. He says that "His sketches prove that he belonged to the group of Dutch true Romantics". The Knysna forest provided van Alphen with the subject matter most adequate to his romantic needs. These sketches in bistre, ink and pencil have an impelling quality and the solitude, silence and brooding nature of the forest are skilfully portrayed.

This excellently produced book is a valuable contribution to our Africana.

FISHING

Hey, S. A. *The rapture of the river: the autobiography of a South African fisherman*. Balkema, 258 p.

The author is not only a keen fisherman but has for many years been closely associated with inland fisheries development in South Africa, and has had excellent opportunities for visiting all the worthwhile waters in the Union. *The rapture of the river* tells us not only of his private fishing expeditions and holidays but also of the work undertaken by the author for the Union

Government in this field. Descriptions of fauna and flora abound and make this book not only a record of fishing exploits but a descriptive record of our country. Perhaps it is a rather too long a book for any but the keenest fisherman but its appeal should be fairly wide. It is illustrated with beautiful photographs and charming sketches of birds and animals. The high standard which we have come to associate with the name of Balkema is evident in the production of this book.

HUNTING

Finaughty, William. *The recollection of William Finaughty elephant hunter, 1864-1875*; edited with an introduction by Edward C. Tabler. Balkema. 127 p.

These reminiscences of one of the foremost professional hunters of his day make an interesting contribution to the picture of Matabeleland of nearly a century ago where game abounded in such profusion that there were pickings for all those who cared to risk their skins at this dangerous game.

Excitement is never lacking and Finaughty had many narrow escapes. Something of a rogue himself, Finaughty also tried his hand at gun-running and had the Boers been a little sharper he would never have lived to tell his tale.

Recommended for its vivid portrayal of a way of life that has gone for ever; there are also many anecdotes about famous personages whom Finaughty met. Mention must be made of the excellent footnotes which form a valuable contribution to this work (Reviewed by M. K. Vrdoljak).

POETRY

Du Preez, Elizabeth. *Elizabeth sings*. Maskew Miller. 83 p.

It would be unfair to assess this book without taking the age of the author into consideration; it is almost impossible to assess it apart from the courageous conquest of her physical disabilities and suffering. On an objective basis, it remains a remarkable achievement and shows rare promise. The prose is less uneven than the poetry but both reveal a sensitive mind and imagination and discerning choice of words.

LOCAL HISTORY AND
DESCRIPTION

Green, Lawrence G. *Beyond the city lights.* Timmins. 240 p.

Once again Lawrence Green has written a most readable book, this time about the Western Province. The author takes us on journeys to the Boland, the Swartland and the Peninsula and makes the past live again. Folklore, tragedies and comedies of the days of our forebears are vividly and interestingly retold. This book should be as popular as its predecessors.

Pringle, Eric and others. *Pringles of the valleys.* Privately published. 242 p.

The Pringles first came to South Africa with the 1820 Settlers and settled along the upper reaches of the Bavians River and in Glen Pringle in the Mankazana. This book deals with their history and geneology and it will be of interest mainly to members of the Pringle family and to historians. To the lay reader it appears somewhat disjointed, although there are interesting extracts from the Journals kept by members of the family. The coats of arms, Pringle seals, family trees and many portraits are given and it is obvious that a great deal of research has gone into this work. It is in a limited edition of 1,000 copies.

Pretorius, Dirk J. J. ed. *In the days of the settlers.* Grocott & Sherry 42 p.

This commemorative brochure describes the second Historical Pilgrimage in Settler country radiating from the 1820 settler village of Bathurst. The first brochure *In the land of the settlers* was published last year and these publications are now to appear annually. They contain information of historic value and are mentioned here as the set will form a valuable contribution to the history of this period.

Rosenthal, Eric. *River of diamonds.* Timmins. 161 p.

Once again Eric Rosenthal digs back into the past; this time to give us the story of the diamond river – the Vaal. The discovery of the first diamond began a colourful and dramatic period in South African history. Mr. Rosenthal tells many stories about such well-known people

as Alfred Beit, Cecil Rhodes, Sidney Mendelssohn and many others less prominent but no less interesting. We learn of fabulous finds and abject failures and the diamond lore which made a legend out of the river diggings. This interestingly written and at times nostalgic book will find a wide circle of readers. It is a pity that the proof-reading was not more accurately done.

BIOGRAPHY

Connolly, Bob. *The Bob Connolly story.* Timmins. 192 p.

Bob Connolly is well known throughout South Africa for his cartoons. An American by birth, he has been in South Africa for 20 years and now he tells the story of all that has happened to him, both here and in the other countries of the world he has visited. Amusingly written, this book will be enjoyed by many, although Mr. Connolly's skill as a writer is not as great as his skill as a cartoonist.

Pirow, Oswald. *James Barry Munnik Hertzog.* Timmins. 288 p.

Seldom has political intrigue been so openly uncovered as in this book by Mr. Oswald Pirow. It is a book which all South Africans should read and will read with a certain degree of pain. Few of the eminent characters emerge with credit in their jockeying for place and power.

Mr. Pirow was a follower and intimate friend of General Hertzog's but does not conceal his faults and weaknesses. There emerges a human picture of a man, impulsive but not pig-headed; a statesman deeply concerned with the future of his country and the well being of his countrymen.

As might be expected the book is well written, taut in structure and packed with interest.

Rouillard, Nancy, ed. *Matabele Thompson: his autobiography*, rev. ed. C. N. A. (Dassie Book) 160 p.

Matabele Thompson was the man who obtained from Lobengula the mining concession which became the basis for the incorporation of the British South Africa Company. A clear

picture of Thompson emerges from these pages and also of Cecil John Rhodes and C. D. Rudd. This well-known work was first published in 1936. In the revised edition additions

have been made to the appendix and certain changes have been made in the text. These are the result of further letters and notes found by the editor, who is Thompson's daughter.

JUVENILE

Stopforth, L. *Captain of the School*. Dagbreek Book Store. 135 p.

With its glossary and comprehension exercises this book is obviously written for the Afrikaans-speaking schoolchild and is designed to be used as a set work. It has little to re-

commend it. The language and actions of the boys are unrealistic. The main characters are schoolboys of matric age and the plot is much the same as that of any other school-boy story. If this book is to serve as a standard for English literature in our schools, then the outlook is indeed gloomy.

(continued from p. 103)

ties to which I have alluded, yet will certainly court disaster if he also ignores the basic requirements of the mechanics of contemporary university librarianship. These may be summed up by saying that the building should be automatic, expansive and flexible. Automatic in that what takes place therein must cause the minimum of commotion, "behind-the-scenes" operations not obtruding on the peace of the readers on the one hand, while on the other, not isolating the staff from the readers; flexible in that the library may suddenly develop unpredictably into unforeseen subject fields, necessitating internal adjustments of space; expansive to allow for the inevitable growth of the library, while at the same time ensuring that physical extensions do not injure the arrangements of the building or its proportions as an art-form. Furthermore, a library nowadays is not merely a storehouse of books and operations connected therewith, but is also a store-house of knowledge in other forms, and indeed the conventional book, although likely for many years to form the bulk of the material in a library, is being supplemented to some extent by the film and micro-film which in themselves involve photographic as well as cataloguing rooms. Quite apart from these modern phenomena, the library has always been regarded as

the natural repository of maps, manuscripts and music, all of which raise special custodial problems. Indeed, up to the middle of the 19th Century, coins were regarded as library, rather than museum objects.

Many of the frustrating library buildings with which librarians are burdened to-day, may be traced back to a lack of close collaboration between architect and librarian. It has been found that, where this collaboration was wanting, the architect tended to look upon the library solely from the point of view of the user, ignoring that of the librarian or operator. Thus one can find large library buildings consisting of a stack, a reading-room and a small librarian's office, nothing further. Perhaps to-day, the boot is rather on the other foot, and the architect must be the guardian of the interests of the user against the attitude of the librarian, who sometimes regards the library too much as a merely productive machine.

Architecture is perhaps the one art-form in which compromise must frequently be sought, and yet when found, must not destroy efficiency or the art-form itself. In the design of a great library, as in other architectural forms, the achievement of masterly compromise is willy-nilly, the aim of the designer.

J. W. PERRY

AFRIKAANSE LITERATUUR VAN DIE DERDE KWARTAAL VAN 1957

deur

D. L. EHLERS

DIE AFGELOPE paar jaar is daar telkemale tereg gekla oor die gehalte van die Afrikaanse prosa. Die mening is dikwels uitgespreek dat die prosa nie tred gehou het met die opbloeï van die drama en veral die poësie in die na-oorlogse tydperk nie. Hierdie klagtes was wel gegron, maar tog was daar reeds die afgelope tweedrie jaar tekens wat op 'n heropbloeï van ons prosa gedui het. Hierdie kwartaal is daardie vermoede heerlik bewaarheid. Vier uit die sewe prosawerke wat hieronder genoem word, kan deur enige taalgebied as 'n aanwinst beskou word, maar met *Die koms van die komeet* en veral *Man van Ciréne* het die Afrikaanse prosakuns die peil bereik waarna alle belangstellendes lank uitgesien het. Eienaardig genoeg is albei hierdie boeke deur die jong Tafelberg-Uitgewers uitgegee – 'n prestasie waarop enige uitgewer trots kan wees en wat ons hartlikste gelukwensing verdien. Een, of in hierdie geval twee, swaeltjies maak egter nog nie somer nie, maar ons hoop en wil selfs waag om te voorspel, dat die somer vir die Afrikaanse prosa nou aangebreek het.

P R O S A

Heroldt, H. *As die skaduwees daal.* Afrikaanse pers.

Die lotgevalle van 'n leeu-familie in verhaal-vorm vertel deur iemand wat klaarblyklik met liefde besiel is vir die ongerepte natuur en sy diere. Die boek bevat 'n paar treffende foto's van wilde diere.

Louw, A. M. *Die koms van die komeet.* Tafelberg.

Die boek is nie sonder gebreke nie, maar dit bied onteenseglik prikkende leesstof vir die denkende leser. Dit is moeilik om die boek neer

te sit voordat jy dit deurgelees het en as jy dit deurgelees het, kry jy die aangename en bevredigende gevoel dat jy jou tyd nuttig bestee het.

Mikro. *Gonnakolk.* Voortrekkerpers.

'n Mens wonder wanneer Mikro uitgeskryf sal raak oor sy Gonnakolkers. Ek waardeer die voorbeeldige eenvoud waarmee hy oor hierdie naïewe mense skryf en homself feitlik met hulle vereenselwig, maar ek vra myself af of so 'n houding en stylaad nie miskien medeverantwoordelik gehou moet word vir die swak posisie wat ons prosa jare lank, ten spyte van Mikro se prolifieke aktiviteite, bekleet het nie. Praat hy nie 'n taal wat nie rekening hou met die geestelike klimaat en belangstelling van ons tyd nie?

Pretorius, G. *Boetatjie.* Culemborg.

'n Simpatieke skets van 'n seun van Distrik Ses. Ek het hierdie boekie met sy tikkie humor en sy lewendige tekeninge meer geniet as Mikro se jongste sketsnovelles.

Rabie, J. S. *Dakkamer en agterplaas.* Balkema.

Alhoewel dit ook goeie prosa bevat, maak hierdie bundel verhale as geheel nie op my so 'n goeie indruk soos die skrywer se *Een-entwintig* nie. Tussen gawe stukke kom byv. 'n verhaal soos *Onder die hemel* voor wat ek nie as geslaag kan beskou nie.

Van Bruggen, J. *Karakters op ons vlaktes.* Afrikaanse pers.

Wie dink dat dit 'n nuwe werk van die skrywer is, sal teleurgestel word. Nee, dit is weer een van daardie nuttelose bloemlesings uit die skrywer se werke wat lesers aangemoedig

behoort te word om self te lees en nie slegs stukke en brokke daarvan nie. As Jochem van Bruggen se werke nie meer in druk is nie, behoort hulle herdruk te word. Ons is dit aan sy nagedagtenis verskuldig.

Venter, F. A. *Man van Ciréne*. Tafelberg.

Hier is nou werklik 'n roman van formaat. Met ferme greep ontvou die skrywer 'n verhaal uit die tyd van Christus se omwandeling op aarde. Die breë, epiese gang van die gebeure voer ons onwillekeurig en met die onontkombare dwang van die noodlot mee tot aan die noodwendige einde. Dis 'n boek wat almal wat wil saampraat oor die Afrikaanse letterkunde nie kan nalaat om te lees nie en wie dit gelees het, sal die inspirasie wat uit elke groot werk uitgaan, as deel van sy geestesbesit met hom meedra.

POËSIE

Malherbe, D. F. *Kruis en kraai*. Nasionale Boekhandel.

Slegs op enkele plekke kan 'n mens in hierdie verse die digter van sulke gawe gedigte soos *Slaap* en *O lande vol graan* herken.

Van der Westhuizen, V. *Die eindelose weg*. Van Schaik.

Hierdie versebundel is 'n verbetering op die skrywer se eersteling. Hy laat my baie aan A. G. Visser dink. Soms maak hy hom doelbewus skuldig aan grootdoenerigheid en verval dan in niksseggende en selfs banale clichés.

Visser, A. J. J. *Kaleidoskoop*. Nasionale Boekhandel.

Hierdie eerstelingsbundel toon tekens van belofte. Alhoewel die digter nie in die geselskap van ons grotes kan beweeg nie, is dit nogtans die moeite werd om met sy verse kennis te maak.

Watermeyer, G. A. *Die republiek van duisend jaar*. Die skrywer.

Met hierdie bundel het een van ons mees belovende jong digters my teleurgestel. Op 'n paar briljante uitsonderings na, het hy nie daarin geslaag om die aktuele sake waaroor hy skryf tot poësie te puur nie. Daar is natuurlik al in die wêreldliteratuur onsterflike gedigte geskryf oor dergelike onderwerpe. As hierdie

bundel mense wat gewoonlik nie tyd het vir poësie nie daartoe kan beweeg om dit wel te lees, sou die digter se moeite nie tevergeefs ge-wees het nie.

GODSDIENS

De Wet, C. J. H. *Het jy my lief?* N. G. Kerk-uitgewers.

Elkeen van hierdie meditasies is om 'n Bybelteks opgebou. Sommige kan kort geleentheidsprekies genoem word. Dit val oor die algemeen binne die begripsvermoë van die gewone leser.

Heyns, J. A. *Klagteboek teen die kerk en sy mense*. Sacum.

Die skrywer, 'n predikant van die N. G. kerk, antwoord hier op besware wat gewoonlik teen die kerk geopper word. Sodoende gee hy ons 'n goeie insig in die werk en wese van die kerk en sy ampsdraers.

Greyvenstein, J. H. J. *Die Openbaring van Johannes*. N. G. Kerk-uitgewers.

'n Deeglike sistematiese verklaring van hierdie interessante Bybelboek. Alhoewel dit ook vir die leek bedoel is, twyfel ek of die gemiddelde leser dit verteerbaar genoeg sal vind.

Muller, J. J. *Die vernaamste sektes in ons land*. N. G. Kerk-uitgewers.

'n Professor aan die Teologiese Kweekskool op Stellenbosch gee hier 'n duidelike en beknopte uiteensetting van die leer van vyf sekte-groepe en toon aan waar hul van die leer van die N.G. kerk afwyk.

Van Straten, mev. M. J. *Aan my susters*. C. U. M.

'n Boek wat deur die vrou wat per geleentheid die leiding by bidure of ander godsdiens-tige byeenkomste moet neem, verwelkom sal word. Dit bevat 93 kort oordenkings, elk na aanleiding van 'n Bybelteks.

Zeeman, M. T. S. *Die Armsorgwerk van die Ned. Geref. Kerke in Suid-Afrika*. Sacum.

'n Akademiese proefskrif wat veral die armsorgwerk in die Vrystaat ondersoek en beskryf. 'n Nuttige bron van inligting oor hierdie onderwerp.

GESKIEDENIS

Pama, C. *Die Unievlag*. Nasionale Boekhandel.

Die vlagstryd woed nog lustig voort. Dit sal diegene wat in ons vlac belangstel, goed doen om hierdie duidelike en beknopte uiteensetting te raadpleeg, nie net oor die Unievlag nie, maar ook oor die Union Jack en die republikeinse vlac.

Van Jaarsveldt, F. A. *Die ontwaking van die Afrikaanse nasionale bewussyn*. Voortrekkerpers.

Hierdie jong, aktiewe historikus durf hier 'n interessante onderwerp aan wat nog nie die aandag geniet het wat dit toekom nie. Wie die huidige politieke ontwikkelinge in ons land intelligent wil volg, behoort met hierdie boek kennis te maak om die nodige agtergrond te verstaan.

ALLERLEI

Tops, A. W. *Weerbaar sonder wapen*. M. Miller.

Die eerste boek oor die skoon en nuttige sport ju-jitsu in Afrikaans. Die hele boek bestaan uit kort beskrywings van houdings en grepe met 'n klein foto om elke beskrywing te illustreer.

Van Loggerenberg, J. *Daardie swierige hoed: maak sit self*. Afrikaanse pers.

Die onderwerp van hierdie boek is een waaroor vroue – en ook sommige mans – nie uitgepraat kan kom nie. Hier kry hulle nou die geleentheid om ook iets tasbaars omtrent die saak te doen – 'n taak wat vir hulle makliker gemaak word deur volbladfoto's en ander illustrasies.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Provincial Administration
of the Cape of Good Hope

Wale Street,
Cape Town.

18th December, 1957

The Honorary Editor,
South African Libraries,
c/o The South African Library,
Government Avenue,
Cape Town.

Sir,

As you have made space available in your October 1957 issue for a rather malicious attack on the Cape Provincial Library Service by an individual who has not the courage to publish his name but hides his identity under the pseudonym "Gulliver", I should appreciate it if I could be given some space to reply.

The official title of the head of the Provincial Library Service is "Director of the Provincial Library Service" as used in the Report, the approval of this title having been granted after the estimates of 1957-58 were printed.

The establishments of the various departments of the Administration that are published in the annual estimates are those approved by the Public Service Commission, whose last inspection was carried out in 1950-51. The establishment of the Library Department that is printed in the 1957-58 estimates, is, therefore, that which was approved by the Commission prior to the promulgation of Ordinance No. 4 of 1955. To enable the re-organization of the library service to be undertaken in terms of that Ordinance, increased staff was necessary. This has been authorised by the Provincial Executive Committee, in exercise of its legal powers, on a temporary basis pending the inspection of the Department by the Public Service Commission. All the librarians with inadequate qualifications hold temporary appointments and every one of them is aware that, when the establishment of the Service has been finally fixed by the Public Service Commission, the retention of their services and the salaries on which they will receive per-

manent appointment, will depend on their qualifications and experience. I leave it to your readers to decide whether the Administration was right or wrong in recommending to the Executive Committee the employment of whatever staff was available in order to get on with the job rather than waste more precious years in a fruitless search for sufficient fully qualified and experienced librarians.

No staff has been engaged in anticipation of future requirements. Every person that is employed is fully occupied in the Library Department, most of whose staff have been and are working many hundreds of hours of unpaid overtime.

"Gulliver's" sneer at the employment of fifteen drivers is particularly unworthy. He should have been able to appreciate that a fleet of thirteen station wagons, as well as the four travelling libraries, necessitated their services.

"Gulliver's" remarks on the position of the local authorities, in which he professes a special interest, are unpleasantly ill-natured. The Executive Committee has authorised the withdrawal of Provincial grants to subscription libraries by stages covering a period of three years after a region has been established, i.e. in the first year after such establishment the full grants will continue to be paid; in the next year they will be reduced to two-thirds and in the next to one half. The Administration cannot, therefore, be accused of suddenly cutting off Provincial financial support from the old subscription libraries, which have not been in the position for many years to provide an adequate service even to the small number of persons who have been able and willing to become subscribers. Once the Provincial Service is providing free facilities in a region, why should the Administration continue to subsidise old, inefficient libraries and thus strengthen the hands of a recalcitrant local authority which refuses to play the comparatively small part in the service which is required of it? Numerous instances can be quoted when the local library subscribers have been anxious that their library should join the Provincial Service but have found themselves balked by a reluctant local authority.

How "non-acceptance of the conditions of the Library Service can lead to considerable hardships for certain ratepayers, because unlike schools and hospitals, the library of a local authority is empowered by the new Ordinance to exclude non-residents from its free facilities" is beyond me. If the local authority does not accept the conditions of the Library Service there will be no free facilities from which non-residents can be excluded under the powers granted by the Ordinance! If what "Gulliver" is objecting to is the power to which he refers, then I can only point out that it is one which all subscription libraries have enjoyed in the past. The local authorities, particularly those with large numbers of holiday visitors, asked, in my opinion quite reasonably, that they should be permitted to levy a charge on non-residents making use of the free library facilities provided by the ratepayers, with Provincial assistance, for their own use. A power to levy a charge must obviously carry with it a power to exclude, otherwise the power cannot be exercised.

The response of local authorities to the scheme has been such that at present the Library Service has not got sufficient staff to deal with all the applications for enrolment it has on hand and they are having to be dealt with in rotation. If "Gulliver" or any other person has any remaining doubts about the effectiveness and popularity of the Provincial Free Library Service, I suggest that he visit a local authority where a public library has been re-organized by the Service and is now in full operation.

Finally, the suggestion that "a headlong race ..." has been started between libraries "in the acquisition of audio-visual material, particularly films", is false and betrays the ignorance of "Gulliver" of the functions in this field of the "Union Education Department" [sic], the Provincial Education Departments and the Library Service. The Provincial Education Departments are subscribers to, and the main source funds of the Films Division of the Department of Education, Arts and Science. The films they use are obtained on loan for use in the schools and are of a purely educational nature. The films that are being obtained by the Library Service are of much more general interest and are intended for use by the public in the same way as reading materials.

There has been the closest co-operation between the Organizer of Adult Education for the Western Cape and the Director of the Provincial Library Service, which has been actively encouraged by the Provincial Administration and bodes well for the future. The functions of the two are complementary and not overlapping, for it is the duty of the Library Service to place freely at the command of the Adult Education Division the materials, books, records, and films that it requires in carrying out its functions. This is exactly parallel to the function of the libraries themselves, which is not to educate the man in the street but to place before him the materials that he requires to educate himself.

On the quality of the language of the Report I have no defence to make. It is deplorable and I must accept some of the blame because it passed through me on its way to the Provincial Council. The Director was naturally anxious to lay his Report on the table at the last session as he is required to do by law. The "Roto" printing machine and the special typewriter used with it had only recently been received and their use was not yet fully understood. The job was hurriedly done and hurriedly pushed through to the Council without proper scrutiny, with somewhat disastrous results. On top of this the translation from Afrikaans to English was unfortunately done by persons whose qualifications were, to say the least of it, doubtful.

I should have thought that in view of the very great progress that has been made since 1955 and the standard of what has been accomplished, together with the common knowledge that we are still heavily engaged in the initial development period, we would have been spared ill-natured and ill-informed criticism in the journal of a profession whose members must be in a position to appreciate the difficulties of the task that the Director of the Provincial Library Service has set his hand to so vigorously and so successfully. "Gulliver's" intention is only too obviously, to quote Pope, "to damn with faint praise, assent with civil leer, and, without sneering, to teach the rest to sneer."

Yours faithfully,
(signed) J. E. P. LEVYNS
Under-Secretary.

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